DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 433 925 PS 027 882

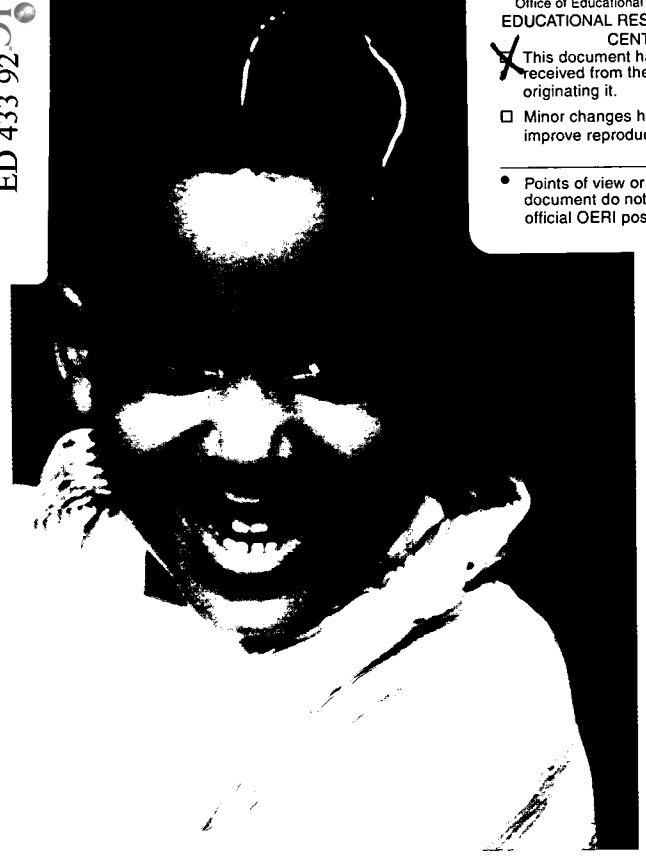
TITLE	Georgia Kids Count Factbook, 1998-99.
INSTITUTION	Georgians for Children, Atlanta, GA.
SPONS AGENCY	Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD.
PUB DATE	1998-00-00
NOTE	115p.; For 1996-97 edition, see ED 402 095.
AVAILABLE FROM	Georgians for Children, 3091 Maple Drive, NE, Suite 114, Atlanta, GA 30305; Tel: 800-KIDS-772 (Toll Free); Tel: 404-365-8948; Fax: 404-365-9009; e-mail: kidscount@georgians.com; Web site: http://www.georgians.com ($15).
PUB TYPE	Numerical/Quantitative Data (110) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC05 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Academic Achievement; Adolescents; Birth Weight; Births to Single Women; Brain; Child Abuse; Child Neglect; Child Welfare; *Children; *Counties; Crime; Dropout Rate; Early Parenthood; Economically Disadvantaged; Family Income; Infant Mortality; Infants; Poverty; Racial Differences; *Social Indicators; State Surveys; Statistical Studies; Statistical Surveys; Tables (Data); Violence; *Well Being
IDENTIFIERS	Arrests; *Georgia; *Indicators

ABSTRACT

This Kids Count factbook presents statistical data and examines trends for 10 indicators of children's well-being in Georgia. The indicators are: (1) low birthweight babies; (2) infant mortality; (3) child deaths; (4) teen deaths by accident, homicide, and suicide; (5) juvenile arrests; (6) reading and math scores on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills; (7) high school dropouts; (8) births to teens; (9) families starting at risk of poverty; and (10) abused and neglected children. Each indicator includes a definition, a summary of state-level statistics, Georgia's national rank on that indicator (if available), and information highlighting an adjunct issue. Each indicator also has a data table containing statistics for all 159 Georgia counties. A special section on early brain development is included. Appendices contain indicator trend data by race 1980-1997, methodology, and references. (EV)

GEORGIA KIDS COUNT

factbook 1998-99



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Georgia kids count

Georgians for children

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Georgia KIDS COUNT was made possible, in part, through grants from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation, Egleston and Scottish Rite, and NationsBank.

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Database development and analytic support were contracted through Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health. Georgia KIDS COUNT also collaborated with the following agencies: Georgia Department of Human Resources, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Child Protective Services Department of the Division of Family and Children's Services, and the Department of Education.

Design by: Design Seven, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia
Ric Stepp Graphics, Cumming, Georgia

Printing by: KDM, Inc., Cumming, GA.

ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE 1998-99 GEORGIA KIDS COUNT FACTBOOK ARE AVAILABLE FOR $15 FROM:

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Georgia kids count

GEORGIA KIDS COUNT

factbook 1998-99

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Child Population Estimates

Child Poverty Estimates

The *1998-99 Georgia KIDS COUNT Factbook* is the sixth factbook in a series of annual reports on the well-being of Georgia's children and families.[1] It represents a continuing effort to describe the actual condition of Georgia children using primarily outcome measures rather than programmatic or service data (such as dollars spent on a program). Georgia's KIDS COUNT project is part of a national effort funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to track the status of children in the United States. Georgians For Children, a multi-issue, statewide, nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization, is the KIDS COUNT organization for the State of Georgia. The goal of the project is to improve the well-being of children by informing citizens and policymakers and by generating local and state discussions.

Overall well-being of Georgia children

Georgia continues to emerge as "the economic center of the South."[2] Although Georgia is consistently rated as one of the best places to do business, our state remains one of the worst places in the United States for a child to live. The national *1998 KIDS COUNT Data Book* ranked Georgia 43rd out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia in overall child well-being.[3] Although Georgia has been faring better than many of its neighbor states in the South, we continue to lag behind the rest of the nation. Georgia can not afford to settle for being the best of the worst in child well-being, which is how it appears when southern states are compared to other states.

Specific aspects of the well-being of Georgia children

The graph on the facing page summarizes Georgia's improvement or deterioration between 1992 and 1997 for ten indicators of child well-being. More state and county statistics for each indicator can be found on that indicator's page.

These indicators showed improvement between 1992 & 1997:

- Infant mortality
- Child deaths
- Teen deaths by accident, homicide, suicide
- High school dropouts (between 1996 and 1997)
- Births to teens
- Child abuse & neglect
- Scores on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (between 1993 and 1997): 3rd grade mathematics, 5th grade mathematics, 8th grade mathematics

These indicators showed deterioration between 1992 & 1997:

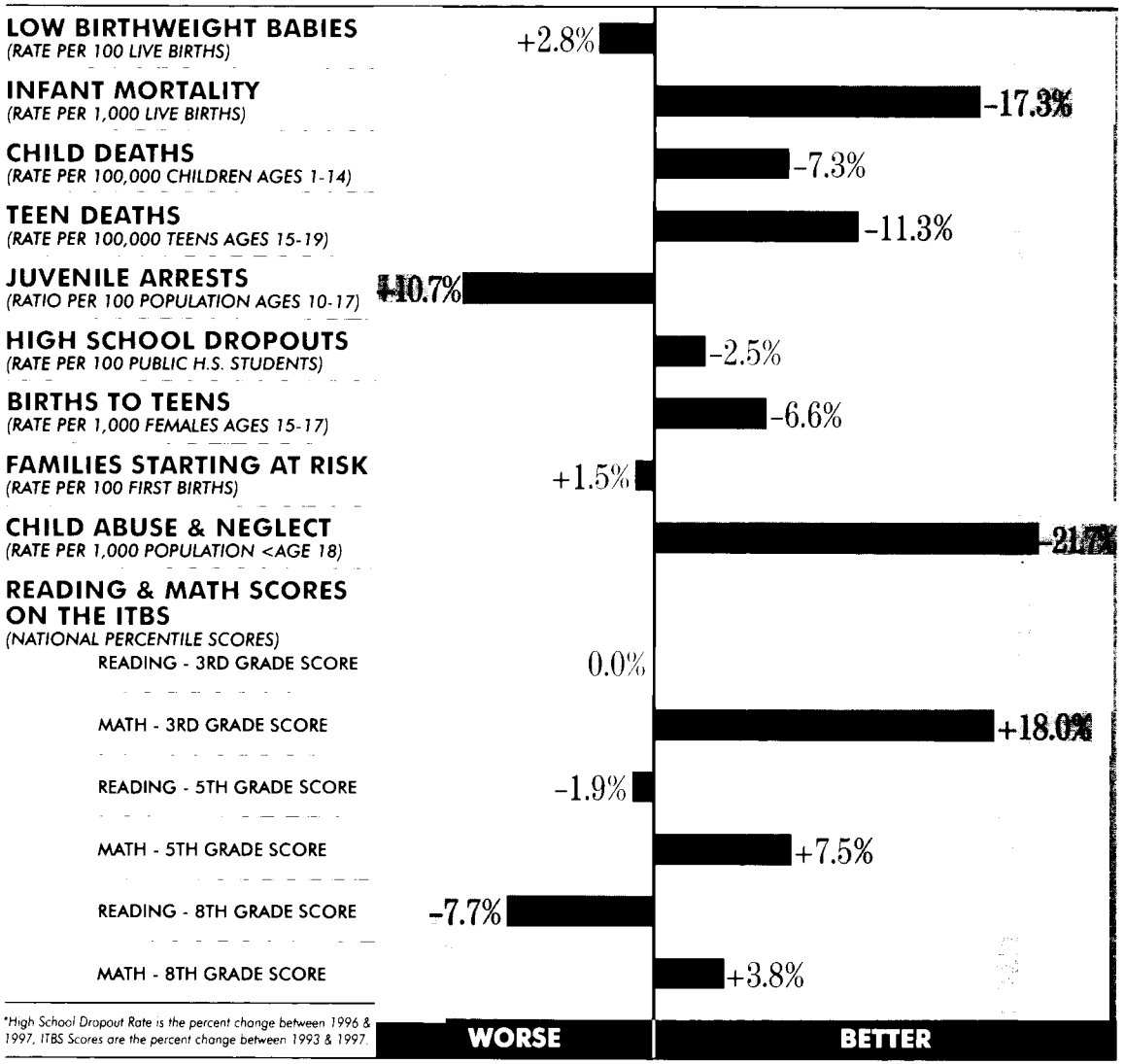
- Low birthweight babies
- Juvenile arrests
- Families starting at risk of poverty
- Scores on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (between 1993 and 1997): 5th grade reading, 8th grade reading

This indicator showed no change:

- Scores on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (between 1993 and 1997): 3rd grade reading

Georgia child well-being

PERCENT CHANGE BETWEEN 1992-1997*



Percent change between 1992-1997*

Low Birthweight Rate *Per 100 Live Births*	+2.8
Infant Mortality Rate *Per 1,000 Live Births*	-17.3
Child Death Rate *Per 100,000 Children Ages 1-14*	-7.3
Teen Death Rate By Accident, Homicide, Suicide *Per 100,000 Teens Ages 15-19*	-11.3
Juvenile Arrest Ratio *Per 100 Population Ages 10-17*	+10.7
High School Dropout Rate *Per 100 Public H.S. Students*	-2.5
Teen Birth Rate *Per 1,000 Females Ages 15-17*	-6.6
Families Starting At Risk Rate *Per 100 First Births*	+1.5
Child Abuse & Neglect Rate *Per 1,000 Population Under Age 18*	-21.7
Reading And Math Scores On The Iowa Test Of Basic Skills (ITBS) *National Percentile Scores*	
Reading-3rd Grade Score	0.0
Math-3rd Grade Score	+18.0
Reading-5th Grade Score	-1.9
Math-5th Grade Score	+7.5
Reading-8th Grade Score	-7.7
Math-8th Grade Score	+3.8

**High School Dropout Rate is the percent change between 1996 & 1997; ITBS Scores are the percent change between 1993 & 1997.*

Estimates of child population and poverty

Accurate data on child population and child poverty are important for several reasons. The number of Georgia children determines the demand for schools and other services such as child care and health care. Also, poverty is linked to almost every aspect of child well-being, from physical health and safety to educational and economic achievement later in life. Child population and child poverty are only measured in the Decennial Census; the most recent census was conducted in 1990. While the March Current Population Survey (conducted annually) provides state-level data between each census, it does not provide county-level child population and child poverty data. In the absence of a measure of this important information about Georgia children, estimates are produced to provide numbers that reflect changes that have occurred since the last census.

Indicators of child well-being

As with preceding reports, the ten indicators of child well-being in this edition use the best data currently available for the state and its 159 counties. These indicators span the childhood years, from infancy to young adulthood. Each indicator has a two-page spread that includes the following information:

OVERVIEW OF INDICATOR

Each indicator's definition appears with a summary of state-level statistics, Georgia's national rank on that indicator (if available), and information highlighting an adjunct issue.

DEFINITION

A definition for each indicator is given on the first page that the indicator appears. Precise definitions are necessary because it is important to know what criteria are being used to define a particular indicator. For instance, the Births to Teens indicator refers to birth rates, not pregnancy rates, for each county. Birth rates and pregnancy rates for a specific time period and area differ because not all pregnancies are carried to term (see graph for Births to Teens indicator).

GEORGIA SUMMARY

A summary profiling state trends is provided for each indicator. This summary typically includes totals and rates for 1997. Graphs are also used to convey relevant relationships and to illustrate comparisons.

NATIONAL RANKING

When available for an indicator, Georgia's rank in relation to the 50 states and the District of Columbia is given. These rankings appear in the *1998 KIDS COUNT Data Book.* States are ranked from best (one) to worst (51). Rankings are based on 1995 data, the most recent year for which data from all states and the District of Columbia is available.

INFORMATION ABOUT ADJUNCT ISSUES

Supplemental information is provided about issues related to each of the ten indicators. This information summarizes research or presents data from additional sources. It can be useful for enriching the reader's understanding of the particular aspect of child well-being that an indicator addresses.

COUNTY DATA TABLE

Each indicator has a data table containing statistics for all 159 Georgia counties. Data are usually presented for three-year periods in these tables because combining three years produces more reliable data. The tables were designed to be easy to understand and to allow data to be used for a variety of purposes (e.g., public information

and education, media coverage, publication in journals and newsletters, presentations, and proposal writing). Important information appears below to assist readers with using the data tables for several common tasks.

NUMBER: DESCRIBING THE MAGNITUDE OF A PROBLEM

The scope of a problem can be described in terms of the number of children affected. For instance, in 1997, 1,021 Georgia infants died before they reached their first birthday. The number of events, listed in the data tables, is the actual quantity, or "raw count" of events occurring in the state or its counties, usually during the three-year period 1995-1997. *This number is not a three-year average.* For more information, refer to Methodology in the Appendices.

RATE OR RATIO

When appropriate, rates for 1992-1994 and 1995-1997 are calculated for each county. They are used to describe the likelihood or probability of an event during a specified time in a defined population. A rate is calculated by dividing the number of events by the population at-risk for that time (see Methodology for more details). *If fewer than five events were recorded for a county over a certain period, then no rate was calculated because rates are less reliable when based on small numbers.*

ASSESSING THE SEVERITY OF A PROBLEM FOR DIFFERENT POPULATIONS.

Rates or ratios can be used to evaluate the severity of a problem for different groups of people. For instance, Georgia's rate of low birthweight for black babies (13.0 per 100 live births during 1997) was twice the rate for white babies (6.6 per 100 live births during 1997).

MAKING COMPARISONS.

Rates or ratios can also be used to compare the severity of a problem in one area (your county) with another area (another county or the state overall) or some standard (the year 2000 objectives). However, two caveats are needed. First, population differences from county to county mean that, although two counties may have comparable rates, their child populations (and thus, the number of children affected) may be quite different. For instance, although Pike and Fulton counties have equal 1995-97 Infant Mortality rates (10.6 per 1,000 live births), only five infants died in Pike County during this period compared to 382 infant deaths in Fulton County. Therefore, if you are planning an intervention and are estimating required resources, you will need the actual numbers. Second, even when two rates differ, this difference may not be statistically significant. *Differences should be interpreted with caution because some variation may be due to chance and may not represent a true difference.*

PERCENT CHANGE: TRACKING TRENDS OVER TIME

The extent to which a problem becomes more or less severe between two time periods can be evaluated using percent change. For instance, the arrest ratio for juveniles charged with crimes doubled (increased by 100 percent) between 1990 and 1997 in Georgia. Percent change measures the percent change relative to the 1992-1994 rate (refer to Methodology in Appendices for calculations). As with other comparisons, meaningful interpretation of percent change requires care. *Differences between time periods should be interpreted with caution because some year-to-year variation may be due to chance and may not reflect a true, or significant, difference.*

Special report on early brain development

This *Georgia KIDS COUNT Factbook* contains a special report on early brain development. It explores implications of the latest brain development research findings for public policy. Specific issues are addressed, such as targeted early interventions, public spending on young children, quality early care and education programs, and child health. The special report also contains relevant Georgia-specific information for these issues.

Appendix

The Indicator Trend Data Table lists Georgia totals for each indicator by race and year (from 1980 to 1997, according to availability of data). This data allows the user to calculate rates and percent change for time periods as needed. The Appendix also contains the Methodology. It provides detailed definitions and descriptions of the calculations and data sources that were used for this factbook.

Note on race and ethnicity

Racial and ethnic categories used by the U.S. government are social distinctions. Racial classifications distinguish among people on the basis of physical characteristics (e.g., skin color). "Black" and "white" are two such categories. Blacks are commonly referred to as "African Americans" and whites as "Caucasians." Ethnic categories classify people on the basis of cultural characteristics (e.g., language). Data for only two ethnicity categories (Hispanic and non-Hispanic) are included in this factbook. Hispanics have many different local names (e.g., "Latino"). This factbook uses labels for racial and ethnic categories that are used by government agencies. Consistency will help readers relate the statistics contained herein with statistics from these agencies. However, these labels may not always be the ones preferred by persons belonging to these categories.

Internet resource list

Georgians For Children and Georgia KIDS COUNT project	www.georgians.com
The Annie E. Casey Foundation and National KIDS COUNT project	www.aecf.org
Assessing the New Federalism: an Urban Institute Project	newfederalism.urban.org
Budgetary Responsibility Oversight Committee	www2.state.ga.us/BROC
Bureau of Labor Statistics	www.bls.gov
Georgia Department of Education	www.doe.k12.ga.us
Georgia Department of Human Resources	www2.state.ga.us/Departments/DHR
Georgia Policy Council Benchmark Database	www.gpc-fc.org
Kidscampaigns	www.kidscampaigns.org
State of Georgia Home Page	www.ganet.state.ga.us
U.S. Bureau of the Census	www.census.gov

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The Need for Child Care in Georgia

from the Annie E. Casey Foundation's
1998 KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being

Child care was the special focus of the national *1998 KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being,* published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation (in Baltimore, MD). This national-level initiative tracks the well-being of children in states throughout the country. Information that appears below is taken from this publication, which is available by contacting Georgians For Children, the KIDS COUNT project for the State of Georgia.

The following figures reflect 5-year averages of data from 1993 through 1997. For children in single-parent families, work criteria (described below) are applied to that parent; for children in married-couple families, work criteria are applied to both parents. (DATA SOURCE: The Urban Studies Institute at the University of Louisville, analysis of data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey March supplement, 1993 through 1997.)

PRESCHOOL CHILDREN WHO ARE LIKELY TO NEED CHILD CARE.

Percent of children under age six living with working parents
Georgia: 67% United States: 63%
For this age group, "working parents" are those parents who reported that they usually worked at least 1 hour per week in the previous calendar year. While these estimates of children needing child care are based on the work of parents, it should also be recognized that many parents send children to preschool programs because early education programs help prepare children (particularly children in low-income families) for school. Consequently, there is a need for preschool programs regardless of parents' work status.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN WHO ARE LIKELY TO NEED CHILD CARE.

Percent of children ages 6 to 12 living with working parents
Georgia: 53% United States: 51%
For this age group, "working parents" are those parents who reported that they usually worked at least 30 hours per week in the previous calendar year. This threshold was selected because most kids are in school for about that amount of time when school is in session. However, note that the ability to work 30 hours per week without needing nonparental child care requires finding a job close to home or school where the parents are only required to work the exact hours that their child is in school. Moreover, this does no take into consideration child-care needs during summer vacation or school holidays. Some couples are able to stagger their work schedules to allow both parents to work more than 30 hours per week while still having one parent always available to care for the children, but this is relatively rare. Furthermore, because many low-income parents work nontraditional hours, they often need child care in order to work the hours required even if they don't work 30 hours per week.

PRETEEN CHILDREN IN FAMILIES THAT ARE LIKELY TO NEED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SECURE THE CHILD CARE NEEDED TO CONTINUE WORKING.

Percent of children under age 13 living in low-income families with working parents
Georgia: 22% United States: 21%
For children under age six, "working parents" is defined as it is under "Percent of children under age six living with working parents"; for children ages 6 to 12, "working parents" is defined as it is under "Percent of children ages 6-12 living with working parents." "Low-income families" refers to those with family incomes less than twice the federal poverty threshold, established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

Definition:

Child population is the number of children under age 18.

Georgia summary:

In 1997, Georgia's estimated child population totaled nearly two million. Of these, about 58 percent were white, 36 percent were black, 3 percent were Hispanic, 2 percent were Asian, and less than 1 percent were Native American.

Georgia in the year 2005: child population projections

Population projections illustrate what Georgia's population is likely to look like in the future. These projections are based on assumptions about future births, deaths, international and state-to-state migration.

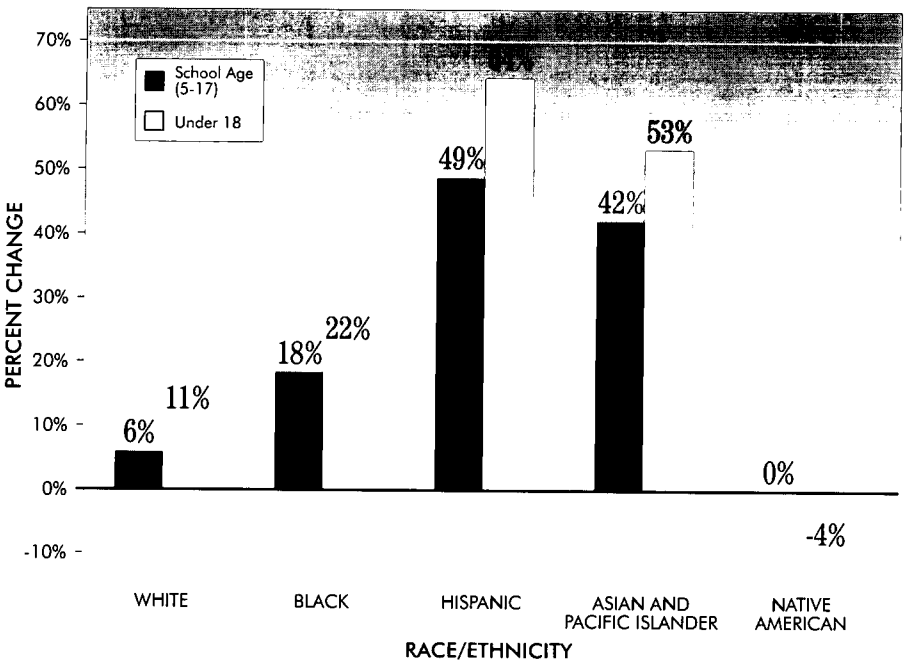
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau. Numbers represent Census Bureau projections for July 1, 2005, rounded to the nearest hundred.

Race/Ethnicity	Number of Children (under age 18)	Number of school age children (between 5 and 17)
White, Non-Hispanic	1,255,600	936,900
Black, Non-Hispanic	779,600	570,900
Hispanic	70,900	52,200
Asian and Pacific Islander	45,400	33,800
Native American	3,200	2,600
Total	2,154,700	1,596,400

Projected child population change for Georgia, 1995-2005

Although Hispanic and Asian child populations are expected to make up only about three percent and two percent of Georgia's total child population, they are the fastest-growing populations in Georgia.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau. The 1995 numbers represent Census Bureau projections for July 1, 1995; the 2005 numbers represent projections for July 1, 2005. Numbers were rounded to the nearest hundred.



ILD POPULATION DATA

ation estimates for children (under age 18), 1997.

COUNTY	1997 TOTAL	WHITE	BLACK	NATIVE AMERICAN	ASIAN[1]	HISPANIC[2]
APPLING	4,661	3,107	1,533	5	16	103
ATKINSON	2,097	1,324	776	0	0	115
BACON	3,035	2,228	796	5	5	51
BAKER	1,091	375	716	0	0	4
BALDWIN	9,712	4,182	5,467	4	104	80
BANKS	3,191	3,005	154	7	23	52
BARROW	10,664	8,771	1,693	25	175	214
BARTOW	18,503	16,213	2,192	31	66	428
BEN HILL	5,193	2,828	2,352	4	16	57
BERRIEN	4,279	3,437	827	9	9	133
BIBB	40,752	17,294	23,095	64	355	446
BLECKLEY	2,875	1,837	990	1	44	25
BRANTLEY	3,932	3,598	306	21	6	27
BROOKS	4,922	2,033	2,868	3	13	101
BRYAN	7,303	5,778	1,436	13	69	106
BULLOCH	11,469	6,550	4,879	21	75	167
BURKE	7,445	2,509	4,928	0	9	31
BUTTS	4,462	2,439	1,973	5	42	73
CALHOUN	1,439	374	1,061	5	0	4
CAMDEN	13,657	9,847	3,408	70	345	620
CANDLER	2,393	1,338	1,053	2	0	122
CARROLL	21,405	16,530	4,704	48	112	513
CATOOSA	12,365	12,120	138	27	81	178
CHARLTON	2,817	1,746	1,055	11	3	32
CHATHAM	59,097	27,190	30,779	119	1,065	1,692
CHATTAHOOCHEE	4,559	2,705	1,619	11	223	1,030
CHATTOOGA	5,658	4,898	724	21	15	39
CHEROKEE	34,878	33,769	811	115	188	1,027
CLARKE	18,760	9,311	8,874	41	636	658
CLAY	989	235	754	1	0	4
CLAYTON	56,254	35,455	17,778	144	2,903	2,554
CLINCH	1,966	1,180	777	3	4	26
COBB	136,881	113,347	18,652	332	4,583	6,793
COFFEE	10,003	6,350	3,583	8	69	370
COLQUITT	11,131	6,942	4,153	23	27	608
COLUMBIA	26,404	21,978	3,270	60	1,102	882
COOK	4,128	2,288	1,804	9	24	98
COWETA	22,397	15,223	7,037	36	101	339
CRAWFORD	3,020	1,869	1,141	8	2	70
CRISP	6,118	2,508	3,593	7	9	43
DADE	3,652	3,607	23	13	10	39
DAWSON	3,697	3,635	2	52	4	34
DECATUR	7,819	3,624	4,160	16	20	173
DEKALB	138,908	50,099	81,715	315	6,932	7,576
DODGE	4,588	2,843	1,729	1	18	63
DOOLY	3,080	1,039	2,018	3	20	54
DOUGHERTY	28,694	9,606	18,821	74	198	512
DOUGLAS	23,901	20,861	2,731	84	227	631
EARLY	3,568	1,368	2,182	10	6	19
ECHOLS	705	560	131	15	0	20
EFFINGHAM	10,638	8,503	2,059	36	40	205
ELBERT	4,985	2,850	2,120	1	14	98
EMANUEL	6,281	3,223	3,034	6	22	43
EVANS	2,803	1,452	1,338	1	13	76
FANNIN	3,989	3,971	1	6	10	54
FAYETTE	23,820	21,265	1,750	44	771	888
FLOYD	19,792	15,238	4,330	37	212	536
FORSYTH	19,004	18,885	0	56	86	573
FRANKLIN	4,251	3,515	711	8	13	54
FULTON	173,656	55,263	114,806	212	3,498	6,021
GILMER	4,327	4,308	8	0	10	96
GLASCOCK	558	473	82	0	0	4
GLYNN	16,919	10,282	6,478	25	129	399
GORDON	10,531	9,845	584	32	71	128
GRADY	5,956	3,306	2,625	23	7	181
GREENE	4,026	1,368	2,658	1	0	78
GWINNETT	137,905	122,252	8,523	312	6,863	7,456
HABERSHAM	7,284	6,653	251	18	314	201
HALL	29,570	25,481	3,705	63	413	3,108
HANCOCK	2,752	229	2,520	1	0	23
HARALSON	6,198	5,544	608	14	28	82
HARRIS	5,439	3,577	1,825	17	22	49
HART	5,204	3,455	1,724	5	22	59
HEARD	2,760	2,216	527	2	16	71
HENRY	26,308	22,554	3,423	49	277	537
HOUSTON	28,782	19,105	9,079	92	516	1,061
IRWIN	2,501	1,355	1,140	2	4	28
JACKSON	9,415	8,150	1,221	14	34	117
JASPER	2,709	1,461	1,234	5	6	43
JEFF DAVIS	3,428	2,675	743	0	19	51
JEFFERSON	5,283	1,584	3,689	1	5	25
JENKINS	2,431	1,046	1,375	1	9	0
JOHNSON	2,406	1,183	1,219	1	1	17
JONES	6,080	4,113	1,941	7	23	53
LAMAR	3,756	2,024	1,719	5	2	36
LANIER	1,956	1,191	722	20	21	44
LAURENS	12,020	6,295	5,665	11	55	94
LEE	6,909	5,369	1,494	11	34	96
LIBERTY	18,934	9,278	9,039	74	576	2,352
LINCOLN	2,107	1,037	1,063	2	0	37
LONG	2,563	1,789	737	11	30	201
LOWNDES	23,312	12,601	10,389	61	303	625
LUMPKIN	4,352	4,103	97	111	39	169
MACON	4,082	1,187	2,870	4	18	25
MADISON	6,299	5,500	762	5	26	143
MARION	1,822	848	953	6	13	11
MCDUFFIE	6,198	3,132	3,051	7	5	64
MCINTOSH	2,707	1,225	1,469	5	8	64
MERIWETHER	6,540	2,670	3,862	5	8	75
MILLER	1,693	987	703	0	2	5
MITCHELL	6,569	2,433	4,122	12	3	140
MONROE	5,024	3,081	1,906	8	25	49
MONTGOMERY	1,977	1,232	734	1	13	85
MORGAN	3,910	2,230	1,673	0	8	92
MURRAY	8,880	8,790	25	13	54	173
MUSCOGEE	48,751	22,750	24,946	152	1,031	3,144
NEWTON	15,052	10,363	4,613	38	55	348
OCONEE	6,425	5,676	674	11	66	165
OGLETHORPE	2,847	1,838	1,006	2	1	43
PAULDING	19,699	18,514	1,070	59	57	351
PEACH	6,447	2,762	3,614	19	34	186
PICKENS	4,497	4,372	106	3	15	28
PIERCE	4,239	3,513	718	4	2	110
PIKE	3,227	2,387	818	3	15	35
POLK	9,238	7,265	1,906	34	40	363
PULASKI	2,191	1,164	1,014	2	9	42
PUTNAM	4,274	2,149	2,081	9	36	56
QUITMAN	624	189	433	2	1	0
RABUN	2,752	2,734	1	6	12	20
RANDOLPH	2,301	583	1,710	0	4	8
RICHMOND	51,469	21,398	28,820	142	1,219	2,190
ROCKDALE	18,457	15,938	2,122	49	356	460
SCHLEY	1,080	593	484	4	0	62
SCREVEN	4,137	1,622	2,506	2	5	18
SEMINOLE	2,564	1,230	1,318	10	4	82
SPALDING	15,682	9,038	6,490	31	127	211
STEPHENS	5,848	4,735	1,065	5	49	98
STEWART	1,452	350	1,074	14	14	22
SUMTER	9,184	3,353	5,771	40	28	156
TALBOT	1,802	455	1,349	0	0	29
TALIAFERRO	495	129	364	0	1	12
TATTNALL	4,635	2,943	1,675	5	20	308
TAYLOR	2,237	945	1,287	1	2	26
TELFAIR	3,111	1,623	1,487	3	0	30
TERRELL	3,232	709	2,517	0	8	15
THOMAS	11,928	5,743	6,123	42	26	212
TIFT	10,541	6,309	4,150	19	72	612
TOOMBS	7,537	4,821	2,569	33	124	712
TOWNS	1,348	1,345	1	2	0	4
TREUTLEN	1,654	887	766	1	0	10
TROUP	16,008	9,164	6,693	14	145	190
TURNER	2,833	1,098	1,727	1	9	13
TWIGGS	2,964	1,246	1,719	3	1	30
UNION	3,308	3,281	7	4	16	42
UPSON	6,721	4,115	2,571	3	31	73
WALKER	15,311	14,478	725	36	76	141
WALTON	13,979	10,244	3,587	30	117	301
WARE	9,392	5,800	3,527	14	54	104
WARREN	1,679	362	1,316	1	1	0
WASHINGTON	5,748	2,054	3,687	1	6	36
WAYNE	7,118	4,969	2,104	16	27	112
WEBSTER	598	236	359	2	0	2
WHEELER	1,400	800	598	2	2	56
WHITE	3,708	3,495	147	18	49	78
WHITFIELD	20,998	19,538	1,181	118	199	1,785
WILCOX	2,028	1,079	948	2	1	20
WILKES	2,710	1,100	1,601	4	7	14
WILKINSON	3,136	1,366	1,771	0	0	23
WORTH	6,653	3,712	2,917	18	11	148
GEORGIA	1,967,369	1,243,902	681,480	4,401	38,849	69,361

[1] Asian and Pacific Islander [2] Hispanics are an ethnic group and are also counted with one of the race groups.

Definition:

Children and other persons are poor if they live in a family with a total income (before taxes) that falls below the federal poverty threshold established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

Georgia summary:

In 1993, an estimated 480,100 Georgia children lived in poverty. Twenty-five percent of Georgia children live in poverty compared to 17 percent of all persons.

The effects of poverty on children

The high poverty rate for Georgia children is cause for concern because it is associated with many aspects of their well-being.

- Low-weight births are almost twice as prevalent among mothers living in poverty. [1]
- Poor mothers are almost three times more likely than are non-poor mothers to have inadequate prenatal care.
- The poor are twice as likely to be victims of violent crime.
- Children in poor families are more likely than are children in other families to become teen parents. [2]
- Poor children are 30 percent more likely than are non-poor children to suffer learning disabilities and developmental delays. [3]
- Below-poverty family income during early childhood (age five and younger) is more closely associated with high school completion than is below-poverty family income later in childhood. This underscores the importance of school readiness in determining the course of schooling for children. [4]
- The effects of poverty on cognitive development begin as early as age two, and the severity of its consequences increases with the duration and severity of poverty. [5]
- As adults, children of poor families are more likely to earn less and to be unemployed more. [6]

Working poor families

Children are poor in large part because they live with adults who are poor, and children depend principally on adults for their well-being. [7] Many of Georgia's poor families with children put forth a considerable amount of effort to work.

- In the mid-1990's, nearly three-fourths (86,000) of Georgia's poor families with children had at least one parent who worked. Nine out of ten of these parents were employed for most of the year (35 to 45 weeks).
- Thirty percent had at least one parent who worked full-time, year-round.

Working poor families represent a broad cross-section of Georgia's population.

- They are almost as likely to be white as black.
- They are evenly distributed between metropolitan and rural areas.

Many factors contribute to poverty among Georgia's working families.

- Most new jobs in Georgia are in the service and retail trade industries, which have the lowest earnings relative to other industries in the state.
- Lack of education and training limits parents to low paying jobs. While those with college and technical training are able to find good jobs in the service sector, those with less education are relegated to the lowest-paying jobs.
- Community factors such as inadequate transportation and child care availability discourage full-time employment among some working poor families.

CHILD POVERTY DATA

...y estimates for children (under age 18 and ages 5-17) and median household income, 1993.

COUNTY	AGES 0-17 NUMBER	AGES 0-17 PERCENT	AGES 5-17 NUMBER	AGES 5-17 PERCENT	MEDIAN INCOME
APPLING	1,450	30.7	975	28.3	$24,326
ATKINSON	648	31.8	437	30.6	$20,345
BACON	1,080	34.8	693	30.8	$21,717
BAKER	409	36.5	268	33.1	$20,056
BALDWIN	2,384	25.3	1,527	22.9	$28,222
BANKS	649	22.0	413	19.2	$28,546
BARROW COUNTY	2,094	21.5	1,338	20.3	$30,510
BARTOW	3,297	19.4	2,002	17.4	$31,274
BEN HILL	1,805	34.2	1,179	31.2	$22,070
BERRIEN	1,201	29.3	769	26.8	$24,078
BIBB	15,064	36.2	9,596	33.5	$29,151
BLECKLEY	716	25.0	477	23.4	$27,417
BRANTLEY	1,037	28.0	650	24.4	$25,049
BROOKS	2,018	42.5	1,341	40.5	$19,674
BRYAN	1,163	17.8	713	15.2	$34,010
BULLOCH	3,431	30.1	2,175	27.5	$25,741
BURKE	3,009	41.3	2,032	40.0	$19,738
BUTTS	1,063	25.8	692	24.2	$26,179
CALHOUN	569	39.0	401	37.8	$17,338
CAMDEN	1,917	14.9	1,136	14.0	$33,430
CANDLER	847	36.2	559	33.8	$21,220
CARROLL	4,859	23.5	3,021	20.9	$29,074
CATOOSA	2,280	19.1	1,368	16.0	$30,754
CHARLTON	873	29.9	549	27.5	$24,001
CHATHAM	19,780	32.7	12,515	30.6	$29,572
CHATTAHOOCHEE	603	13.2	419	13.3	$29,002
CHATTOOGA	1,220	21.0	763	18.6	$23,821
CHEROKEE	3,368	10.9	1,953	9.7	$45,561
CLARKE	5,714	30.3	3,611	28.3	$25,892
CLAY	499	49.2	339	46.0	$15,754
CLAYTON	11,715	21.2	6,836	18.3	$35,892
CLINCH	664	33.6	445	32.0	$20,786
COBB	15,280	11.7	8,592	9.7	$45,529
COFFEE	3,134	32.2	2,061	30.3	$23,554
COLQUITT	4,162	38.4	2,724	35.3	$22,272
COLUMBIA	2,652	10.7	1,604	9.1	$46,290
COOK	1,320	32.7	870	30.6	$21,636
COWETA	3,815	19.5	2,358	17.7	$36,050
CRAWFORD	654	23.3	413	21.0	$27,994
CRISP	2,859	45.6	1,923	42.8	$20,468
DADE	792	21.7	510	19.4	$25,312
DAWSON	606	19.3	362	16.7	$32,581
DECATUR	3,070	39.0	2,050	35.9	$22,479
DEKALB	35,496	25.4	22,036	23.3	$36,054
DODGE	1,539	32.9	1,025	31.1	$21,786
DOOLY	1,257	40.8	841	37.5	$19,681
DOUGHERTY	12,821	42.3	8,191	39.1	$25,587
DOUGLAS	3,094	13.6	1,840	11.6	$40,711
EARLY	1,664	45.6	1,126	43.6	$18,458
ECHOLS	223	33.5	149	30.4	$23,532
EFFINGHAM	1,742	18.2	1,094	16.0	$35,134
ELBERT	1,584	30.7	1,037	28.3	$23,170
EMANUEL	2,581	40.1	1,768	38.2	$18,828
EVANS	963	35.5	650	34.1	$22,226
FANNIN	1,057	26.8	689	24.3	$21,542
FAYETTE	1,097	4.9	616	3.8	$57,680
FLOYD	4,946	24.7	3,049	21.9	$28,601
FORSYTH	1,688	11.4	944	9.5	$44,162
FRANKLIN	1,010	24.1	671	22.7	$24,545
FULTON	64,830	38.1	40,591	35.7	$32,869
GILMER	974	25.3	624	22.7	$24,438
GLASCOCK	118	21.1	79	19.1	$24,309
GLYNN	4,778	28.3	2,980	25.9	$29,647
GORDON	1,806	17.6	1,153	15.9	$30,644
GRADY	2,128	35.5	1,428	33.2	$21,703
GREENE	1,361	34.6	932	32.6	$22,128
GWINNETT	9,927	8.0	5,594	6.8	$49,781
HABERSHAM	1,157	16.3	726	14.5	$28,438
HALL	5,698	20.6	3,436	18.3	$32,061
HANCOCK	1,117	39.0	747	35.9	$19,013
HARALSON	1,509	25.0	932	22.1	$25,698
HARRIS	922	18.3	611	16.7	$31,406
HART	1,206	23.9	769	21.8	$26,917
HEARD	748	27.8	483	25.0	$24,663
HENRY	2,244	10.2	1,356	8.9	$43,621
HOUSTON	5,691	20.2	3,498	18.0	$36,458
IRWIN	896	35.8	590	33.1	$22,335
JACKSON	1,991	22.5	1,244	20.2	$28,152
JASPER	660	26.0	423	24.1	$28,052
JEFF DAVIS	962	27.3	618	24.6	$24,275
JEFFERSON	2,103	38.8	1,433	37.3	$19,190
JENKINS	877	34.7	613	34.2	$18,980
JOHNSON	861	34.5	587	33.1	$20,486
JONES	1,094	18.1	682	15.8	$35,506
LAMAR	928	25.3	608	23.3	$25,683
LANIER	665	36.4	455	35.1	$21,107
LAURENS	3,843	31.9	2,504	29.3	$25,560
LEE	993	16.0	632	13.7	$37,026
LIBERTY	4,828	25.4	2,850	25.1	$24,605
LINCOLN	510	23.8	343	22.1	$23,434
LDNG	663	29.7	410	29.3	$23,341
LOWNDES	7,669	32.6	4,818	30.1	$26,314
LUMPKIN	804	19.9	514	18.4	$30,193
MCDUFFIE	1,881	29.8	1,197	26.8	$24,355
MCINTOSH	859	33.4	578	31.9	$20,822
MACON	1,718	41.4	1,127	37.2	$19,953
MADISON	1,467	23.9	941	21.6	$27,976
MARION	618	34.2	416	33.3	$22,033
MERIWETHER	2,346	34.8	1,523	32.6	$22,270
MILLER	584	33.9	392	31.6	$22,190
MITCHELL	2,919	44.7	1,975	41.5	$20,165
MONROE	1,100	22.0	689	19.2	$29,825
MONTGOMERY	636	32.2	425	29.8	$22,027
MORGAN	880	23.1	564	21.0	$27,862
MURRAY	1,421	17.0	849	14.7	$29,823
MUSCOGEE	18,293	35.6	11,185	32.4	$26,749
NEWTON	3,244	23.7	2,042	21.9	$31,167
OCONEE	701	12.0	417	10.2	$40,667
OGLETHORPE	654	23.5	421	21.7	$27,396
PAULDING	2,168	13.2	1,274	11.7	$40,243
PEACH	2,245	35.8	1,490	33.1	$27,622
PICKENS	858	21.0	549	19.4	$29,114
PIERCE	1,212	29.8	797	26.7	$23,710
PIKE	551	18.9	349	17.2	$30,601
POLK	2,447	26.5	1,544	23.9	$24,889
PULASKI	700	30.8	465	28.4	$24,926
PUTNAM	1,048	25.5	680	23.4	$26,519
QUITMAN	257	40.9	178	41.6	$17,501
RABUN	568	21.2	377	19.7	$23,958
RANDOLPH	1,174	48.9	814	46.6	$16,398
RICHMOND	17,515	32.9	11,222	31.0	$27,300
ROCKDALE	2,240	12.7	1,317	10.6	$42,869
SCHLEY	288	26.9	192	25.4	$24,256
SCREVEN	1,294	30.9	884	30.0	$22,867
SEMINDLE	998	39.7	634	35.3	$21,013
SPALDING	4,653	28.7	2,928	26.1	$27,526
STEPHENS	1,515	25.5	984	23.6	$25,878
STEWART	653	42.7	444	40.2	$17,240
SUMTER	3,437	37.0	2,215	33.9	$24,065
TALBOT	607	33.2	410	31.1	$21,503
TALIAFERRO	190	38.6	138	39.0	$17,350
TATTNALL	1,552	34.4	1,000	31.3	$22,424
TAYLOR	812	36.7	552	34.8	$19,663
TELFAIR	1,166	35.5	792	33.4	$18,567
TERRELL	1,471	44.9	1,000	43.0	$19,141
THOMAS	4,093	35.1	2,698	32.7	$23,221
TIFT	3,549	34.0	2,272	31.5	$25,790
TOOMBS	2,666	35.9	1,760	33.3	$21,705
TOWNS	260	20.2	156	16.9	$22,142
TREUTLEN	643	37.5	415	33.8	$19,041
TROUP	4,397	27.1	2,767	24.7	$27,859
TURNER	1,221	42.5	850	41.5	$19,302
TWIGGS	976	31.7	660	30.0	$22,859
UNION	746	24.4	498	22.6	$23,177
UPSON	1,783	25.9	1,169	24.1	$25,097
WALKER	3,256	21.0	2,088	18.6	$26,877
WALTON	2,714	21.5	1,697	19.4	$31,459
WARE	3,211	33.5	2,102	30.6	$22,554
WARREN	655	37.7	449	37.7	$18,943
WASHINGTON	1,885	32.4	1,240	30.4	$24,048
WAYNE	2,215	31.3	1,444	28.9	$25,611
WEBSTER	170	27.1	115	24.8	$21,852
WHEELER	510	36.2	349	35.2	$19,283
WHITE	594	17.6	380	15.7	$27,918
WHITFIELD	3,790	18.5	2,341	16.4	$31,415
WILCOX	792	39.0	545	37.3	$19,681
WILKES	794	28.6	529	25.8	$22,336
WILKINSON	789	25.2	521	23.4	$26,998
WORTH	2,380	36.7	1,546	34.2	$24,757
GEORGIA	480,129	25.2	302,205	23.0	$31,148

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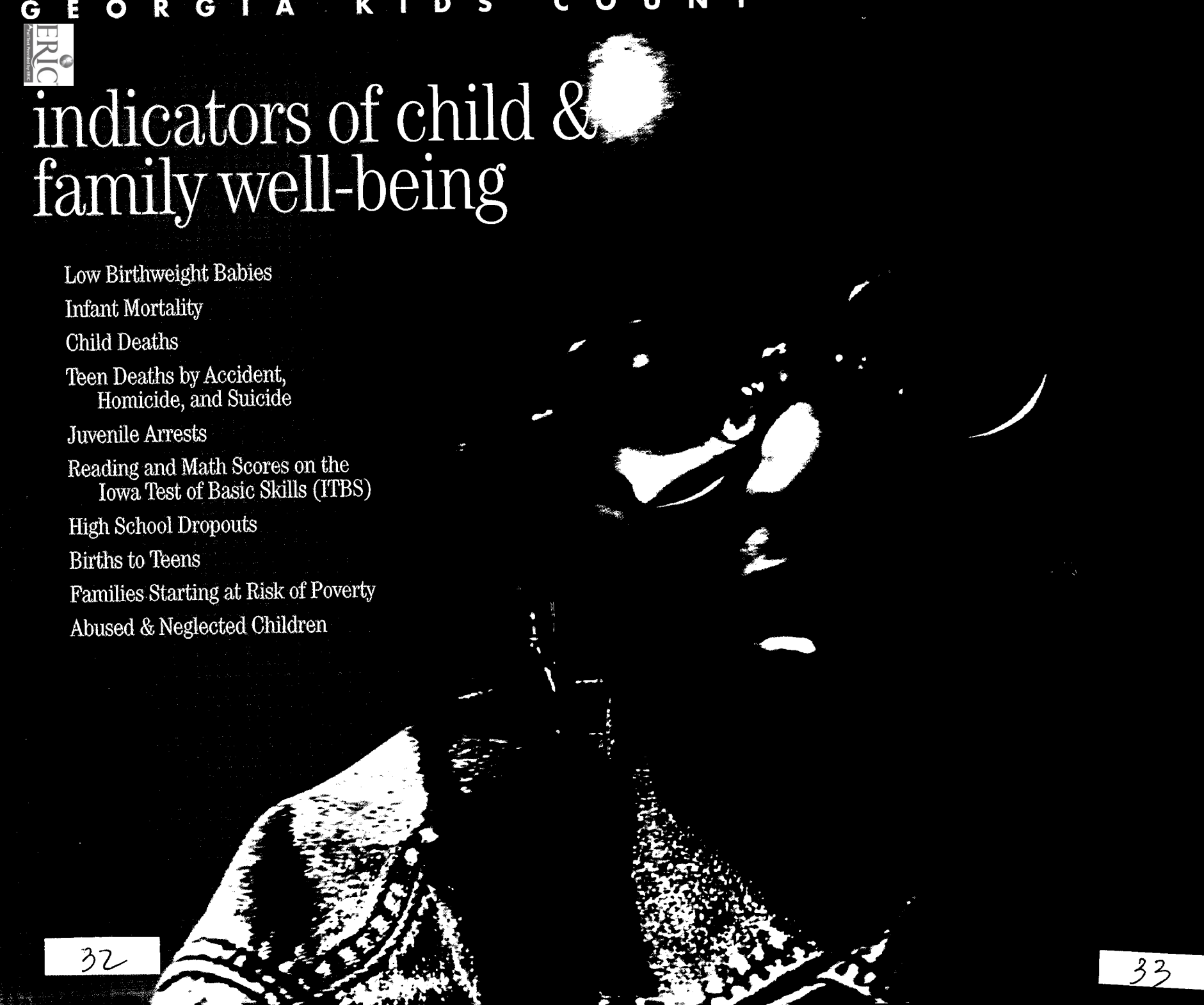
indicators of child & family well-being

- Low Birthweight Babies
- Infant Mortality
- Child Deaths
- Teen Deaths by Accident, Homicide, and Suicide
- Juvenile Arrests
- Reading and Math Scores on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)
- High School Dropouts
- Births to Teens
- Families Starting at Risk of Poverty
- Abused & Neglected Children



LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES

Definition:

Low birthweight babies are infants born weighing less than 5 ½ pounds (2,500 grams). Although many low birthweight babies are born prematurely (prior to 37 completed weeks of gestation), full-term infants can also be low birthweight. The data are reported by place of mother's residence, not place of infant's birth.

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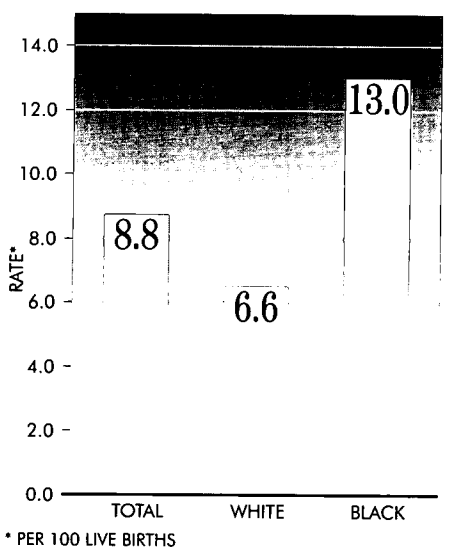
Georgia summary:

In 1997, 10,393 Georgia babies were born low birthweight (weighing less than 5 ½ pounds); of these, 2,131 were born *very* low birthweight (weighing less than 3 pounds 5 ounces). The prevalence of low birthweight for black babies (13.0 per 100 live births) was almost twice that for white babies (6.6 per 100 live births). Georgia's rate of low birthweight babies has increased 1.4 percent between 1990 and 1997.

low birthweight rates
BY RACE, GEORGIA 1997



* PER 100 LIVE BIRTHS

Smoking parents

From 20% to 30% of all low-weight births have been linked to cigarette smoking during pregnancy. This makes smoking the largest single risk behavior for low birthweight.[2]

- Decreased rates of low-weight births can be achieved when women quit smoking at almost any point during pregnancy, even as late as the seventh or eighth month.
- Exposure to passive smoke during pregnancy has been associated with low birthweight.
- In addition to low birthweight, tobacco use is associated with a greater risk of miscarriage, stillbirth, preterm delivery, and infant death.[3]

Cigarette consumption among pregnant smokers during the last trimester of pregnancy
GEORGIA 1996

In Georgia in 1996, 13% of women smoked cigarettes during the last trimester of pregnancy.[4]

Daily consumption of cigarettes	Percent of pregnant smokers
1-9	47%
10-19	25%
20 or more	28%

SOURCE: Georgia Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 1996.

Research shows that infants born at lower birth weights have increased mortality rates and are at higher risk for growth, health, and developmental problems.[5]

LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES

*born weighing less than 5 ½ pounds, number for 1995-1997, rates** for 1992-1994 and 1995-1997, and percent change between the two time periods.*

COUNTY	NUMBER 1995-97	RATE 1992-94	RATE 1995-97	PERCENT CHANGE
APPLING	71	7.7	9.1	18.3
ATKINSON	46	12.2	9.8	-19.8
BACON	33	5.6	7.4	32.2
BAKER	12	11.1	10.0	-10.0
BALDWIN	153	11.1	10.4	-6.1
BANKS	33	7.2	7.1	-1.5
BARROW	161	6.7	7.9	18.5
BARTOW	274	7.1	7.9	11.3
BEN HILL	84	10.5	11.0	4.5
BERRIEN	52	7.0	7.8	11.3
BIBB	883	10.7	11.7	9.9
BLECKLEY	46	9.5	10.1	6.7
BRANTLEY	25	9.0	7.9	-12.7
BROOKS	45	9.2	7.6	-17.4
BRYAN	86	8.1	7.8	-4.5
BULLOCH	161	8.4	8.9	6.7
BURKE	107	12.7	10.2	-19.9
BUTTS	77	7.1	11.4	60.4
CALHOUN	29	14.1	11.5	-18.4
CAMDEN	160	6.6	7.0	6.0
CANDLER	40	7.2	10.1	40.7
CARROLL	309	7.8	8.4	7.6
CATOOSA	126	7.4	6.8	-8.5
CHARLTON	36	5.6	8.8	56.6
CHATHAM	1,101	10.5	10.4	-0.8
CHATTAHOOCHEE	58	7.7	8.5	10.5
CHATTOOGA	80	9.2	8.5	-7.0
CHEROKEE	382	5.7	6.3	11.5
CLARKE	322	8.5	9.2	8.3
CLAY	13	11.7	7.2	-38.4
CLAYTON	1,041	8.5	9.5	11.5
CLINCH	24	10.6	7.4	-30.3
COBB	1,737	6.8	7.0	3.2
COFFEE	168	9.5	9.2	-2.5
COLQUITT	175	10.5	9.2	-12.2
COLUMBIA	211	6.3	6.2	-1.2
COOK	62	8.9	9.0	0.7
COWETA	291	6.8	7.5	9.6
CRAWFORD	27	10.1	7.5	-25.5
CRISP	121	12.1	11.5	-5.3
DADE	35	8.7	6.1	-29.5
DAWSON	41	7.9	6.6	-15.6
DECATUR	119	9.2	9.0	-2.1
DEKALB	2,883	9.5	9.8	3.0
DODGE	78	8.2	11.1	35.8
DOOLY	51	13.5	10.3	-23.8
DOUGHERTY	548	10.5	11.2	6.2
DOUGLAS	283	6.7	7.4	10.7
EARLY	78	9.4	13.2	40.2
ECHOLS	6	6.3	8.5	33.5
EFFINGHAM	109	8.1	8.1	-0.8
ELBERT	64	10.2	8.0	-21.2
EMANUEL	94	7.2	9.8	35.2
EVANS	33	8.7	8.2	-6.5
FANNIN	28	6.2	4.7	-24.1
FAYETTE	157	6.7	6.4	-5.6
FLOYD	288	8.0	8.3	2.8
FORSYTH	243	5.9	6.6	12.1
FRANKLIN	81	8.9	10.4	16.3
FULTON	3,536	10.6	9.8	-7.0
GILMER	60	6.5	7.4	13.6
GLASCOCK	6	*	6.4	*
GLYNN	252	9.5	9.6	0.6
GORDON	109	5.6	6.1	8.2
GRADY	88	8.0	9.4	18.3
GREENE	60	9.5	9.9	5.0
GWINNETT	1,481	5.8	6.5	10.4
HABERSHAM	99	8.2	8.0	-2.3
HALL	441	7.6	7.1	-6.1
HANCOCK	43	11.4	10.6	-6.7
HARALSON	48	6.4	5.2	-19.1
HARRIS	55	8.2	6.8	-17.8
HART	68	9.5	9.4	-1.4
HEARD	32	10.7	8.1	-24.3
HENRY	312	6.0	6.9	15.4
HOUSTON	381	8.6	8.6	0.2
IRWIN	28	9.0	8.0	-10.7
JACKSON	131	8.4	7.9	-5.8
JASPER	23	12.4	6.9	-44.1
JEFF DAVIS	47	7.1	8.4	18.8
JEFFERSON	101	12.5	12.1	-2.8
JENKINS	36	12.4	10.5	-15.4
JOHNSON	50	8.9	12.7	42.8
JONES	70	7.8	9.0	16.1
LAMAR	56	10.2	9.7	-5.0
LANIER	17	5.6	7.0	24.4
LAURENS	178	9.0	9.7	8.0
LEE	60	6.9	7.5	9.7
LIBERTY	368	8.6	8.1	-5.2
LINCOLN	29	9.5	10.2	7.4
LONG	42	7.4	8.9	20.3
LOWNDES	350	8.2	8.1	-0.9
LUMPKIN	43	7.4	6.7	-9.0
MACON	75	8.6	12.6	47.4
MADISON	80	5.7	7.9	37.4
MARION	35	9.2	12.5	35.8
MCDUFFIE	106	10.2	11.9	17.3
MCINTOSH	22	8.6	5.5	-35.8
MERIWETHER	103	10.9	11.3	3.3
MILLER	26	8.5	10.7	25.3
MITCHELL	110	11.0	11.0	0.4
MONROE	85	9.6	11.9	23.5
MONTGOMERY	20	7.5	6.2	-16.7
MORGAN	66	9.6	10.7	11.7
MURRAY	117	7.1	7.9	10.9
MUSCOGEE	900	9.5	9.8	3.3
NEWTON	218	8.6	8.0	-7.5
OCONEE	53	6.5	6.5	0.9
OGLETHORPE	31	7.3	7.9	9.2
PAULDING	197	5.6	6.3	11.2
PEACH	107	11.2	10.9	-3.4
PICKENS	49	9.1	7.5	-17.8
PIERCE	42	6.1	6.6	8.0
PIKE	40	8.1	8.5	4.3
POLK	146	9.7	8.5	-11.6
PULASKI	31	10.2	9.7	-5.4
PUTNAM	41	11.0	6.9	-37.5
QUITMAN	4	10.8	*	*
RABUN	44	6.6	8.9	35.1
RANDDLPH	41	10.5	11.5	8.6
RICHMOND	915	10.3	9.8	-4.8
ROCKDALE	192	7.6	7.8	3.3
SCHLEY	24	6.1	11.9	94.1
SCREVEN	83	8.8	13.4	52.0
SEMINOLE	39	10.8	10.4	-3.6
SPALDING	243	10.0	9.8	-1.6
STEPHENS	91	7.5	8.6	13.9
STEWART	33	11.7	15.1	28.4
SUMTER	179	9.2	11.4	23.5
TALBOT	26	15.3	11.0	-28.2
TALIAFERRO	9	15.0	11.5	-23.1
TATTNALL	93	8.3	9.4	12.7
TAYLOR	52	11.3	13.4	18.8
TELFAIR	50	8.2	11.6	41.1
TERRELL	71	12.6	12.9	2.3
THOMAS	161	8.9	8.6	-3.2
TIFT	201	10.0	10.4	3.8
TOOMBS	104	9.1	8.1	-10.8
TOWNS	17	7.2	7.6	5.2
TREUTLEN	31	7.8	11.4	47.0
TROUP	271	9.9	9.6	-2.8
TURNER	53	8.5	12.2	44.5
TWIGGS	47	8.5	12.7	50.3
UNION	28	5.5	6.1	11.0
UPSON	109	10.0	10.4	4.3
WALKER	189	8.6	7.6	-10.6
WALTON	202	8.2	7.9	-3.4
WARE	130	9.3	8.7	-6.3
WARREN	29	15.6	12.6	-19.0
WASHINGTON	111	10.1	13.5	33.4
WAYNE	71	7.8	7.0	-9.6
WEBSTER	8	9.3	9.4	1.2
WHEELER	14	8.7	7.1	-18.3
WHITE	60	6.1	9.3	52.3
WHITFIELD	260	7.4	6.0	-19.5
WILCOX	36	7.4	10.1	35.5
WILKES	38	9.9	9.3	-5.5
WILKINSON	48	8.6	10.6	22.9
WORTH	76	9.4	8.4	-10.4
GEORGIA	29,964	8.6	8.7	0.7

** Number too small to calculate a rate.* *** Rates are per 100 live births.*

Definition:

Infant mortality refers to deaths of children under one year of age. The data are reported by place of infant's residence, not place of infant's death.

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Georgia summary:

In 1997, 1,021 Georgia infants died before their first birthday. Although Georgia's infant mortality rate declined by 11.1 percent between 1992-94 and 1995-97, black infants continue to die at more than twice the rate of white infants (13.7 and 6.2 per 1,000 live births during 1997, respectively).

SIDS in Georgia

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is the unexpected death of an apparently healthy infant under one year of age that remains unexplained after a complete investigation including an autopsy, an examination of the death scene, and a review of the infant's clinical history.[2]

SIDS is the leading cause of death for infants between one month and one year of age nationally and in Georgia. Most SIDS deaths occur between one and four months of age. Between 1992 and 1997, infant mortality due to SIDS decreased by 43 percent in the U.S.; during that same time period in Georgia, infant mortality due to SIDS decreased by 25 percent. Georgia's SIDS rate for 1997 was 0.97 per 1,000 live births compared to the U.S. rate of 0.69 per 1,000 live births.

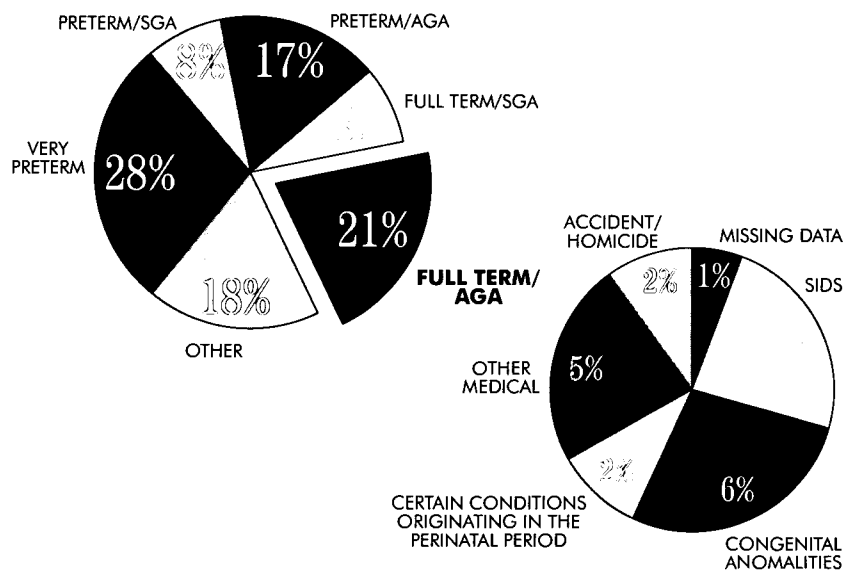
Georgia is participating in the national *Back To Sleep* campaign to decrease infant mortality due to SIDS.[3] Babies who sleep on their backs are less likely to die of SIDS than babies who sleep on their sides or stomachs. SIDS is up to four times more likely for "tummy" sleepers compared to back sleepers; SIDS is two times more likely for side sleepers than back sleepers.

Percent of mothers who put their babies to sleep on the back, side, and stomach

1997	Georgia	U.S.
Back	38%	53%
Side	39%	25%
Stomach	22%	21%

SOURCE: Georgia Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 1997; NICHD Household Survey, 1997.

Infant deaths and causes of death among full term/AGA infants[4]



Preterm infants (less than 37 weeks gestation) and infants that are small for gestational age (i.e., weigh in the lowest tenth percentile based on gestational age; SGA) are at an increased risk of death compared to full term (FT) infants that are **appropriate weight for gestational age (AGA).**[5] This graph groups infant deaths into six categories: (1) very preterm - less than 25 weeks gestation, (2) preterm and SGA, (3) preterm and AGA, (4) FT and SGA, (5) FT and AGA, and (6) other.[6] Although very preterm births represented only 0.3 percent of all births in 1996, they accounted for 28 percent of infant deaths. (Babies in this group die before age one at a rate of 768.4 per 1,000 live births.) In contrast, FT/AGA infants represented 74 percent of all 1996 births, but accounted for 21 percent of infant deaths. (Babies in this group have the lowest death rate, 2.5 per 1,000 live births.) SIDS, congenital anomalies, and other medical conditions account for a majority of FT/AGA infant deaths.

INFANT MORTALITY

*t deaths, number for 1995-1997, rates** for 1992-1994 and 1995-1997, and percent change between the two time periods.*

COUNTY	NUMBER 1995-97	RATE 1992-94	RATE 1995-97	PERCENT CHANGE
APPLING	11	16.5	14.1	-14.5
ATKINSON	2	21.2	*	*
BACON	1	*	*	*
BAKER	1	*	*	*
BALDWIN	25	15.7	17.0	7.9
BANKS	3	*	*	*
BARROW	7	9.6	3.5	-63.9
BARTOW	19	7.0	5.5	-21.0
BEN HILL	11	20.3	14.4	-29.0
BERRIEN	6	*	9.0	*
BIBB	110	18.6	14.6	-21.5
BLECKLEY	7	*	15.4	*
BRANTLEY	6	*	18.9	*
BROOKS	6	*	10.1	*
BRYAN	5	8.4	4.5	-46.6
BULLOCH	22	11.2	12.2	8.7
BURKE	16	12.1	15.2	25.8
BUTTS	6	12.7	8.9	-29.7
CALHOUN	2	*	*	*
CAMDEN	17	7.4	7.4	0.0
CANDLER	6	*	15.2	*
CARROLL	23	5.4	6.2	15.0
CATOOSA	9	9.2	4.8	-47.3
CHARLTON	6	*	14.7	*
CHATHAM	101	14.4	9.6	-33.5
CHATTAHOOCHEE	7	17.2	10.2	-40.5
CHATTOOGA	14	13.9	14.9	7.1
CHEROKEE	37	4.4	6.1	38.6
CLARKE	29	10.8	8.3	-23.0
CLAY	0	*	*	*
CLAYTON	105	9.4	9.6	2.4
CLINCH	2	*	*	*
COBB	178	6.7	7.2	7.5
COFFEE	21	9.4	11.5	22.7
COLQUITT	17	9.6	9.0	-6.7
COLUMBIA	25	5.2	7.3	41.9
COOK	7	9.2	10.1	9.9
COWETA	22	6.6	5.6	-14.1
CRAWFORD	7	19.8	19.6	-1.0
CRISP	16	18.9	15.2	-19.8
DADE	2	*	*	*
DAWSON	7	12.8	11.3	-11.1
DECATUR	11	16.5	8.3	-49.3
DEKALB	281	11.7	9.6	-18.5
DODGE	4	24.0	*	*
DOOLY	6	18.7	12.1	-35.2
DOUGHERTY	64	13.1	13.1	-0.4
DOUGLAS	28	6.0	7.3	22.5
EARLY	8	15.1	13.5	-10.5
ECHOLS	2	*	*	*
EFFINGHAM	3	12.9	*	*
ELBERT	4	19.6	*	*
EMANUEL	9	7.3	9.4	27.6
EVANS	4	*	*	*
FANNIN	3	*	*	*
FAYETTE	21	5.2	8.5	65.3
FLOYD	36	9.6	10.3	7.5
FORSYTH	18	4.1	4.9	20.4
FRANKLIN	10	8.2	12.8	55.6
FULTON	382	11.2	10.6	-4.9
GILMER	7	*	8.6	*
GLASCOCK	0	*	*	*
GLYNN	29	11.0	11.0	0.1
GORDON	16	6.6	9.0	35.8
GRADY	10	9.5	10.7	12.6
GREENE	6	18.6	9.9	-46.5
GWINNETT	144	6.4	6.3	-2.6
HABERSHAM	10	10.5	8.1	-22.7
HALL	37	8.5	6.0	-30.2
HANCOCK	4	24.3	*	*
HARALSON	3	8.6	*	*
HARRIS	9	10.3	11.1	7.7
HART	6	9.8	8.3	-15.5
HEARD	10	*	25.4	*
HENRY	33	5.1	7.3	43.9
HOUSTON	34	12.5	7.7	-38.7
IRWIN	2	20.3	*	*
JACKSON	12	6.2	7.2	16.0
JASPER	3	*	*	*
JEFF DAVIS	5	*	8.9	*
JEFFERSON	13	15.9	15.6	-1.7
JENKINS	0	15.2	*	*
JOHNSON	1	24.9	*	*
JONES	8	10.4	10.3	-0.5
LAMAR	7	16.8	12.1	-27.6
LANIER	1	*	*	*
LAURENS	25	13.5	13.6	0.4
LEE	4	7.6	*	*
LIBERTY	36	11.5	8.0	-30.9
LINCOLN	1	*	*	*
LONG	2	10.5	*	*
LOWNDES	48	11.6	11.1	-3.7
LUMPKIN	3	10.3	*	*
MACON	11	*	18.5	*
MADISON	5	10.2	4.9	-51.9
MARION	8	*	28.7	*
MCDUFFIE	7	7.3	7.9	7.3
MCINTOSH	1	14.3	*	*
MERIWETHER	10	15.0	10.9	-27.1
MILLER	2	*	*	*
MITCHELL	10	10.1	10.0	-1.4
MONROE	5	13.4	7.0	-47.8
MONTGOMERY	2	*	*	*
MORGAN	4	*	*	*
MURRAY	16	6.2	10.8	74.5
MUSCOGEE	139	12.3	15.2	23.3
NEWTON	18	9.7	6.6	-31.9
OCONEE	7	12.7	8.6	-32.1
OGLETHORPE	0	*	*	*
PAULDING	16	5.9	5.1	-14.5
PEACH	16	13.8	16.2	17.7
PICKENS	1	9.3	*	*
PIERCE	4	16.4	*	*
PIKE	5	*	10.6	*
POLK	13	12.3	7.6	-38.4
PULASKI	4	*	*	*
PUTNAM	6	14.7	10.1	-31.4
QUITMAN	0	*	*	*
RABUN	2	*	*	*
RANDOLPH	5	19.9	14.0	-30.0
RICHMOND	102	11.8	10.9	-7.9
ROCKDALE	24	10.0	9.7	-2.9
SCHLEY	2	*	*	*
SCREVEN	8	10.8	12.9	19.3
SEMINOLE	4	*	*	*
SPALDING	28	10.8	11.3	4.8
STEPHENS	5	14.1	4.7	-66.5
STEWART	2	*	*	*
SUMTER	27	11.5	17.1	49.0
TALBOT	3	*	*	*
TALIAFERRO	1	*	*	*
TATTNALL	8	9.7	8.1	-16.4
TAYLOR	7	*	18.0	*
TELFAIR	2	11.7	*	*
TERRELL	12	10.9	21.7	98.9
THOMAS	17	9.4	9.1	-2.9
TIFT	34	12.0	17.5	45.3
TOOMBS	12	9.6	9.4	-2.2
TOWNS	0	*	*	*
TREUTLEN	2	19.4	*	*
TROUP	31	15.7	11.0	-30.1
TURNER	6	16.5	13.8	-16.2
TWIGGS	5	*	13.5	*
UNION	5	*	10.8	*
UPSON	6	9.5	5.7	-40.0
WALKER	17	10.6	6.9	-35.1
WALTON	17	8.3	6.7	-20.1
WARE	18	9.3	12.1	29.8
WARREN	3	35.0	*	*
WASHINGTON	10	12.2	12.2	-0.6
WAYNE	10	11.4	9.9	-13.0
WEBSTER	2	*	*	*
WHEELER	2	*	*	*
WHITE	3	13.4	*	*
WHITFIELD	25	10.1	5.7	-43.2
WILCOX	5	16.1	14.0	-13.4
WILKES	4	*	*	*
WILKINSON	10	*	22.1	*
WORTH	6	11.2	6.6	-40.6
GEORGIA	3,149	10.3	9.1	-11.1

** Number too small to calculate a rate. ** Rates are per 1,000 live births.*

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Definition:

Child deaths refers to deaths of children between ages one and 14 (inclusive) from all causes. The data are reported by child's place of residence, not place of death.

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Georgia summary:

In 1997, child deaths (ages one to 14) in Georgia totaled 446. Georgia's child death rate decreased by 5.6 percent between 1992-94 and 1995-97. The 1997 death rate for black children (38.2 per 100,000 children age one to 14) was 60 percent higher than the rate for white children (23.8 per 100,000 children). The majority of all child deaths (55 percent) are due to accidental injuries or violence.

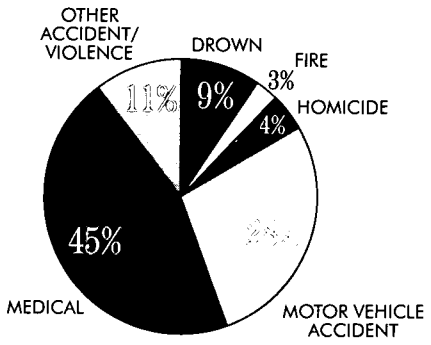
Firearm safe storage laws

In 1997, 23 Georgia children (age one to 14) were killed by firearms; 11 of these were accidental deaths. For every child younger than 15 years who dies from a firearm-related injury, four children suffer a nonfatal wound.[2]

In 1994, 14% of gun owners in the U.S. with a child younger than age 18 reported having a gun that was kept loaded and unlocked.[3] Research shows that safe storage laws (encouraging gun owners to store loaded firearms in such a way that children cannot readily access them) reduce unintentional shooting deaths by up to 37 percent among children younger than age 15.[4] During the 1998 legislative session, the Georgia Senate passed a compromise version of Senate Bill 407 which would hold adults, including parents, criminally liable for negligence if a minor gained access to their handgun. The bill died in the House Judiciary Committee.

Causes of death among children ages 1 to 14

GEORGIA 1997



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CHILD DEATHS

*ns of children ages 1 to 14, number for 1995-1997, rates** for 1992-1994 and 1995-1997, and percent change between the two time periods.*

COUNTY	NUMBER 1995-97	RATE 1992-94	RATE 1995-97	PERCENT CHANGE
APPLING	2	65.1	*	*
ATKINSON	3	*	*	*
BACON	2	71.0	*	*
BAKER	0	*	*	*
BALDWIN	6	32.0	27.1	-15.2
BANKS	1	*	*	*
BARROW	8	49.7	32.6	-34.5
BARTOW	10	22.9	23.5	2.4
BEN HILL	7	41.5	57.2	37.9
BERRIEN	2	*	*	*
BIBB	38	52.1	39.7	-23.7
BLECKLEY	2	*	*	*
BRANTLEY	4	*	*	*
BROOKS	6	*	52.8	*
BRYAN	6	*	35.4	*
BULLOCH	14	34.8	51.2	47.1
BURKE	10	29.9	58.8	96.7
BUTTS	5	*	49.4	*
CALHOUN	2	*	*	*
CAMDEN	13	41.3	41.0	-0.7
CANDLER	2	*	*	*
CARROLL	8	29.7	16.2	-45.4
CATOOSA	6	29.5	21.0	-28.8
CHARLTON	1	*	*	*
CHATHAM	47	27.4	33.1	20.8
CHATTAHOOCHEE	2	43.9	*	*
CHATTOOGA	4	74.6	*	*
CHEROKEE	21	21.1	25.9	22.6
CLARKE	9	39.1	20.2	-48.2
CLAY	0	*	*	*
CLAYTON	50	28.4	37.8	33.1
CLINCH	5	*	110.7	*
COBB	77	22.5	24.0	6.5
COFFEE	10	58.7	43.1	-26.6
COLQUITT	8	55.6	30.8	-44.7
COLUMBIA	11	12.5	17.7	41.2
COOK	4	98.0	*	*
COWETA	13	34.9	25.7	-26.2
CRAWFORD	1	*	*	*
CRISP	4	41.7	*	*
DADE	2	61.3	*	*
DAWSON	1	*	*	*
DECATUR	4	27.5	*	*
DEKALB	85	31.5	26.0	-17.4
DODGE	7	46.8	65.8	40.5
DOOLY	5	*	68.3	*
DOUGHERTY	15	51.5	22.1	-57.2
DOUGLAS	18	30.9	32.3	4.7
EARLY	4	*	*	*
ECHOLS	2	*	*	*
EFFINGHAM	5	23.3	20.5	-12.2
ELBERT	2	*	*	*
EMANUEL	2	*	*	*
EVANS	1	*	*	*
FANNIN	3	*	*	*
FAYETTE	14	20.0	25.4	26.6
FLOYD	16	34.8	34.7	-0.5
FORSYTH	11	31.0	26.6	-14.1
FRANKLIN	3	*	*	*
FULTON	147	35.2	36.1	2.6
GILMER	6	*	61.4	*
GLASCOCK	0	*	*	*
GLYNN	18	42.8	45.0	5.1
GORDON	2	38.8	*	*
GRADY	5	*	35.9	*
GREENE	3	*	*	*
GWINNETT	65	20.6	20.4	-0.9
HABERSHAM	5	*	29.6	*
HALL	32	35.0	46.9	34.0
HANCOCK	7	*	106.9	*
HARALSON	4	*	*	*
HARRIS	3	*	*	*
HART	4	*	*	*
HEARD	3	98.6	*	*
HENRY	8	22.9	13.6	-40.8
HOUSTON	15	28.1	22.3	-20.6
IRWIN	1	*	*	*
JACKSON	6	49.4	27.5	-44.3
JASPER	4	*	*	*
JEFF DAVIS	4	*	*	*
JEFFERSON	2	*	*	*
JENKINS	4	*	*	*
JOHNSON	2	*	*	*
JONES	5	*	34.7	*
LAMAR	1	60.3	*	*
LANIER	1	*	*	*
LAURENS	13	21.6	45.7	111.4
LEE	1	36.5	*	*
LIBERTY	11	49.6	23.8	-52.0
LINCOLN	2	*	*	*
LONG	4	*	*	*
LOWNDES	18	39.0	32.3	-17.1
LUMPKIN	3	*	*	*
MACON	8	*	83.1	*
MADISON	2	35.9	*	*
MARION	2	*	*	*
MCDUFFIE	7	34.2	47.5	38.7
MCINTOSH	6	*	97.5	*
MERIWETHER	5	32.4	32.8	1.4
MILLER	0	*	*	*
MITCHELL	8	32.8	52.2	59.1
MONROE	2	*	*	*
MONTGOMERY	3	*	*	*
MORGAN	3	*	*	*
MURRAY	5	31.4	24.3	-22.7
MUSCOGEE	34	30.8	29.1	-5.7
NEWTON	9	35.8	26.1	-27.0
OCONEE	2	*	*	*
OGLETHORPE	1	*	*	*
PAULDING	14	25.4	31.9	25.9
PEACH	7	34.8	46.9	34.6
PICKENS	5	*	49.9	*
PIERCE	2	87.7	*	*
PIKE	2	*	*	*
POLK	6	71.0	28.0	-60.5
PULASKI	2	*	*	*
PUTNAM	3	*	*	*
QUITMAN	0	*	*	*
RABUN	0	*	*	*
RANDOLPH	0	*	*	*
RICHMOND	35	33.4	28.6	-14.3
ROCKDALE	14	22.3	32.5	45.5
SCHLEY	1	*	*	*
SCREVEN	3	*	*	*
SEMINOLE	2	*	*	*
SPALDING	8	26.9	21.6	-19.7
STEPHENS	2	52.2	*	*
STEWART	2	*	*	*
SUMTER	10	32.9	47.4	44.3
TALBOT	3	*	*	*
TALIAFERRO	0	*	*	*
TATTNALL	5	47.9	46.2	-3.5
TAYLOR	1	*	*	*
TELFAIR	4	77.0	*	*
TERRELL	6	105.7	78.1	-26.1
THOMAS	13	48.3	46.6	-3.6
TIFT	8	53.5	32.3	-39.6
TOOMBS	6	28.9	33.7	16.6
TOWNS	0	*	*	*
TREUTLEN	0	*	*	*
TROUP	18	23.9	47.5	98.4
TURNER	4	75.8	*	*
TWIGGS	3	*	*	*
UNION	1	*	*	*
UPSON	5	31.9	31.9	-0.1
WALKER	11	36.3	30.4	-16.1
WALTON	9	17.8	28.1	58.1
WARE	10	49.0	45.3	-7.5
WARREN	5	*	124.2	*
WASHINGTON	8	36.4	58.5	60.6
WAYNE	5	*	30.1	*
WEBSTER	0	*	*	*
WHEELER	1	*	*	*
WHITE	1	*	*	*
WHITFIELD	8	38.8	16.4	-57.7
WILCOX	2	*	*	*
WILKES	2	*	*	*
WILKINSON	1	*	*	*
WORTH	8	47.5	52.1	9.7
GEORGIA	1,396	32.2	30.4	-5.6

** Number too small to calculate a rate.* *** Rates are per 100,000 children ages 1 to 14.*

TEEN DEATHS BY ACCIDENT, HOMICIDE, AND SUICIDE

Definition:

Teen deaths by accident, homicide, and suicide refers to deaths of teens between ages 15 and 19 (inclusive) from these three causes. "Accidents" include motor vehicle accidents and all other accidental deaths (e.g., deaths due to falls, fires, or poisoning). Data are reported by teen's place of residence, not place of death.

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Georgia summary:

In 1997, 357 teens (age 15 to 19) died from accident, homicide, and suicide. Homicide accounted for the most deaths for black males (57.1 deaths per 100,000 teens during 1995-97). The leading cause of death for white male and female teens and for black female teens was motor vehicle crashes (with rates of 59.0, 34.9, and 13.1, respectively). Georgia's rate of teen deaths stayed relatively constant between 1992-94 and 1995-97 (0.5 percent increase).

Youth and risk behaviors

According to a 1993 survey, many Georgia high school students engage in health risk behaviors.[2]

- 31% of males and 21% of females rarely or never used safety belts when riding in a car driven by someone else.

During the 30 days preceding the survey:

- 36% rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol
- 44% used alcohol
- 25% reported episodic heavy drinking (having 5 or more drinks on at least one occasion)
- 24% smoked cigarettes
- 10% used chewing tobacco or snuff
- 14% used marijuana
- 28% carried a weapon (e.g., a gun, knife, or club) at least once

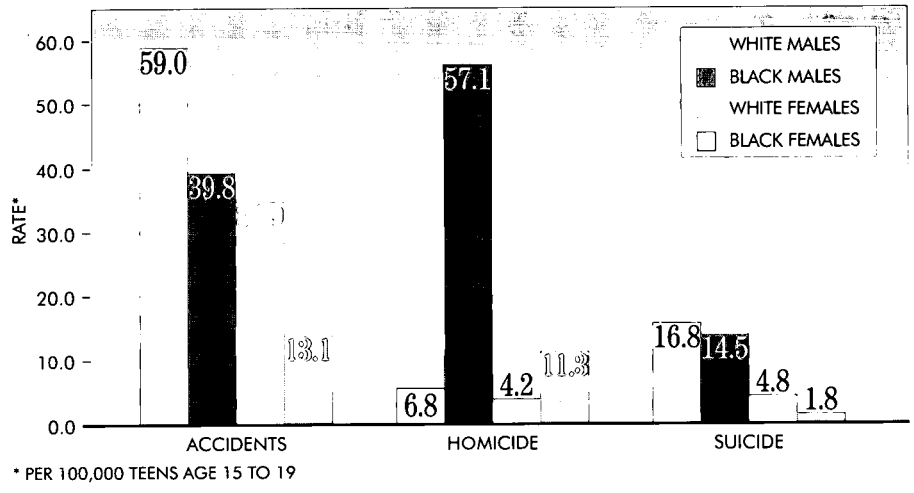
Youth and suicide

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among U.S. youth age 15 and older.[3] Female high school students in Georgia were more likely than male high school students to have attempted suicide (15 percent versus 7 percent, respectively).[4] Although twice as many females as males *attempt* suicide, adolescent males actually *commit* suicide more than adolescent females by a ratio of five to one.[5]

Compared to heterosexual youth, homosexual youth are two to three times more likely to commit suicide.[6] Youth who identify themselves as gay, lesbian, or bisexual are more likely to encounter social discrimination and violence. As a consequence, they have a greater risk of depression, feelings of isolation, low self-esteem, and suicide.

Death rates of teens 15-19 by top three causes: accident, homicide, and suicide

GEORGIA 1995-97



* PER 100,000 TEENS AGE 15 TO 19

46

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TEEN DEATHS BY ACCIDENT, HOMICIDE, AND SUICIDE

*Number of teens ages 15 to 19 by accident, homicide, and suicide, number for 1995-1997, rates** for 1992-1994 and 1995-1997, and percent change between the two time periods.*

COUNTY	NUMBER 1995-97	RATE 1992-94	RATE 1995-97	PERCENT CHANGE
APPLING	4	*	*	*
ATKINSON	1	*	*	*
BACON	2	*	*	*
BAKER	0	*	*	*
BALDWIN	5	92.5	48.6	-47.4
BANKS	3	*	*	*
BARROW	9	77.0	119.8	55.6
BARTOW	13	57.1	94.4	65.3
BEN HILL	2	*	*	*
BERRIEN	6	*	166.4	*
BIBB	26	94.8	73.8	-22.2
BLECKLEY	5	*	168.4	*
BRANTLEY	1	*	*	*
BROOKS	5	*	132.1	*
BRYAN	4	*	*	*
BULLOCH	4	34.0	*	*
BURKE	9	120.9	169.3	40.1
BUTTS	2	148.1	*	*
CALHOUN	2	*	*	*
CAMDEN	7	101.3	79.0	-22.0
CANDLER	1	*	*	*
CARROLL	18	52.8	88.1	66.9
CATOOSA	4	62.2	*	*
CHARLTON	0	*	*	*
CHATHAM	35	67.1	75.1	11.9
CHATTAHOOCHEE	4	*	*	*
CHATTOOGA	4	*	*	*
CHEROKEE	16	57.6	71.3	23.8
CLARKE	13	42.1	43.8	4.0
CLAY	0	*	*	*
CLAYTON	25	66.7	57.4	-14.0
CLINCH	2	*	*	*
COBB	60	49.8	61.0	22.5
COFFEE	5	81.0	61.6	-24.0
COLQUITT	5	118.8	55.8	-53.0
COLUMBIA	14	74.5	75.6	1.5
COOK	1	*	*	*
COWETA	22	76.1	136.7	79.7
CRAWFORD	1	*	*	*
CRISP	3	*	*	*
DADE	0	*	*	*
DAWSON	0	*	*	*
DECATUR	5	*	74.8	*
DEKALB	92	65.0	76.8	18.2
DODGE	1	125.5	*	*
DOOLY	2	*	*	*
DOUGHERTY	14	100.0	54.7	-45.3
DDUGLAS	17	67.5	94.0	39.3
EARLY	4	*	*	*
ECHOLS	0	*	*	*
EFFINGHAM	5	*	66.4	*
ELBERT	7	165.0	187.9	13.9
EMANUEL	6	*	124.3	*
EVANS	2	*	*	*
FANNIN	3	163.7	*	*
FAYETTE	8	38.8	45.3	16.6
FLOYD	12	83.9	64.4	-23.3
FORSYTH	9	58.9	66.6	13.2
FRANKLIN	3	*	*	*
FULTON	120	91.5	79.0	-13.7
GILMER	4	*	*	*
GLASCOCK	0	*	*	*
GLYNN	11	54.8	82.2	49.8
GORDON	4	86.7	*	*
GRADY	5	106.5	100.7	-5.4
GREENE	7	*	240.4	*
GWINNETT	58	52.5	65.8	25.3
HABERSHAM	10	89.8	120.2	33.8
HALL	15	84.7	62.6	-26.1
HANCOCK	2	*	*	*
HARALSON	5	*	102.9	*
HARRIS	2	129.8	*	*
HART	5	147.1	114.8	-22.0
HEARD	2	*	*	*
HENRY	15	86.0	84.0	-2.3
HOUSTON	11	61.9	52.0	-15.9
IRWIN	3	325.9	*	*
JACKSON	10	238.2	142.8	-40.0
JASPER	2	*	*	*
JEFF DAVIS	1	*	*	*
JEFFERSON	3	*	*	*
JENKINS	1	*	*	*
JOHNSON	1	*	*	*
JONES	3	*	*	*
LAMAR	0	*	*	*
LANIER	0	*	*	*
LAURENS	3	130.0	*	*
LEE	4	*	*	*
LIBERTY	6	48.7	46.2	-5.0
LINCOLN	2	*	*	*
LONG	1	*	*	*
LOWNDES	7	66.3	33.4	-49.7
LUMPKIN	3	*	*	*
MACON	2	*	*	*
MADISON	2	*	*	*
MARION	2	*	*	*
MCDUFFIE	8	*	171.9	*
MCINTOSH	3	*	*	*
MERIWETHER	9	*	161.9	*
MILLER	0	*	*	*
MITCHELL	7	169.2	124.7	-26.3
MONROE	7	122.8	159.2	29.6
MONTGOMERY	2	*	*	*
MORGAN	2	*	*	*
MURRAY	3	111.8	*	*
MUSCOGEE	28	68.1	67.2	-1.3
NEWTON	11	*	89.5	*
OCONEE	3	*	*	*
OGLETHORPE	2	*	*	*
PAULDING	16	58.2	121.8	109.2
PEACH	5	*	72.9	*
PICKENS	3	*	*	*
PIERCE	1	*	*	*
PIKE	1	*	*	*
POLK	10	94.8	129.0	36.0
PULASKI	1	*	*	*
PUTNAM	9	*	268.3	*
QUITMAN	0	*	*	*
RABUN	2	*	*	*
RANDOLPH	1	*	*	*
RICHMOND	34	73.0	71.5	-2.1
ROCKDALE	13	69.9	91.3	30.7
SCHLEY	2	*	*	*
SCREVEN	2	*	*	*
SEMINOLE	2	*	*	*
SPALDING	10	48.7	78.2	60.4
STEPHENS	6	*	109.4	*
STEWART	2	*	*	*
SUMTER	5	104.7	63.1	-39.7
TALBOT	2	*	*	*
TALIAFERRO	0	*	*	*
TATTNALL	3	174.4	*	*
TAYLOR	0	*	*	*
TELFAIR	2	*	*	*
TERRELL	2	*	*	*
THOMAS	10	*	105.9	*
TIFT	8	88.5	83.8	-5.3
TOOMBS	6	152.6	107.3	-29.7
TOWNS	1	*	*	*
TREUTLEN	3	*	*	*
TROUP	7	105.5	54.0	-48.8
TURNER	2	*	*	*
TWIGGS	1	*	*	*
UNION	2	255.9	*	*
UPSON	4	*	*	*
WALKER	10	75.4	80.3	6.6
WALTON	14	*	133.4	*
WARE	4	64.1	*	*
WARREN	0	*	*	*
WASHINGTON	5	118.5	113.0	-4.6
WAYNE	4	*	*	*
WEBSTER	0	*	*	*
WHEELER	3	*	*	*
WHITE	4	*	*	*
WHITFIELD	14	67.2	79.1	17.6
WILCOX	1	*	*	*
WILKES	0	245.6	*	*
WILKINSON	1	*	*	*
WORTH	9	*	170.9	*
GEORGIA	1,197	74.6	75.0	0.5

** Number too small to calculate a rate.* *** Rates are per 100,000 teens age 15 to 19.*

Definition:

Juvenile arrests refers to arrests of youth age 17 or younger. Data are reported by place of arrest, not place of residence. *Part I offenses* include murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, auto theft, and arson. *Part II offenses* include forgery, fraud, embezzlement, vandalism, weapons violations, sex offenses, drug and alcohol abuse violations, gambling, vagrancy, curfew violations, and runaways.

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Georgia summary:

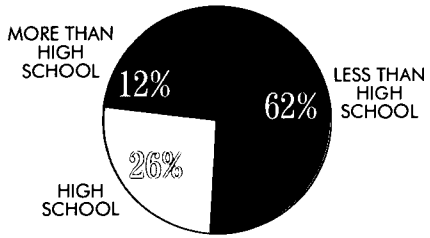
In 1997, 49,124 arrests were made among juveniles under age 18. Approximately one-third of these arrests (30 percent) were for Part I offenses. The arrest ratio for all offenses for black juveniles (9.9 per 100 youth ages 10 to 17 during 1997) was over two times the arrest ratio for white juveniles (3.7 per 100 youth ages 10 to 17 during 1997). Georgia's juvenile arrest ratio increased 4.9 percent between 1992-94 and 1995-97.

Education and preventing a life of crime

The total number of new prison beds in Georgia reached a record high in 1998.[2] In June of that year, Georgia had a total of almost 19,700 prison inmates age 15 and older. Data on the backgrounds of these inmates show that a majority (62 percent) have not completed high school.[3]

Self-reported education level of Georgia inmates

JUNE 1998



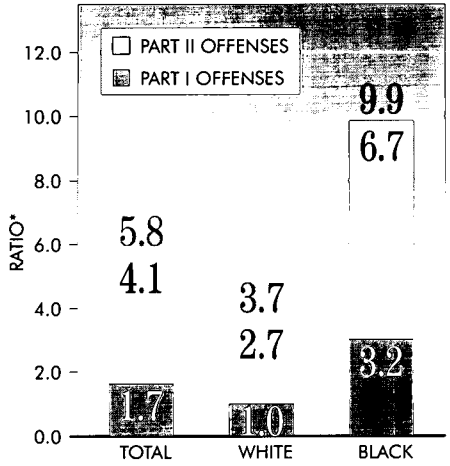
- 60 percent (about 11,500 persons) read at or below the eighth-grade level.
- Nearly 80 percent (about 15,000 persons) possessed math skills that were at or below the eighth-grade level.
- 75 percent (about 14,200 persons) had a functional spelling level at or below the eighth-grade.

Most funds and policies aimed at crime reduction are directed toward a single solution—incarcerating persons who have already committed crimes. An alternative approach involves prevention, or diverting youth from a life of crime. A recent study found that significant crime reduction could be achieved by intervening early in the lives of children at risk of eventual trouble with the law.[4]

For example, one type of program for at-risk youth provides modest monetary and scholarship incentives (for short-term motivation) and offers long-term learning, development, and service opportunities. The RAND study concluded that these "graduation incentives" were nearly as effective at reducing crime as incarceration at about one-tenth the monetary cost.[5] Additional savings can be realized by not having to eventually imprison youth who would have become involved in criminal careers. Furthermore, graduation incentives were found to significantly increase high school graduation and college enrollment rates among participants.

Juvenile arrest ratios by race and type of offense

GEORGIA 1997



* PER 100 YOUTHS AGES 10 TO 17

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JUVENILE ARRESTS

*...ts of juveniles ages 10 to 17, number for 1995-1997, ratios** for 1992-1994 and 1995-1997, and percent change between the two time periods.*

COUNTY	1995-97 NUMBER PART I	PART II	TOTAL	RATIO 1992-94	RATIO 1995-97	PERCENT CHANGE
APPLING	30	68	98	0.8	1.5	85.7
ATKINSON	9	21	30	1.0	1.1	3.8
BACON	26	163	189	4.6	4.3	-5.4
BAKER	4	2	6	2.2	0.4	-82.9
BALDWIN	507	1,077	1,584	4.4	11.9	168.6
BANKS	19	22	41	1.5	0.9	-36.3
BARROW	222	484	706	5.4	5.6	3.6
BARTOW	140	339	479	2.2	2.1	-2.1
BEN HILL	181	174	355	4.4	4.9	11.3
BERRIEN	85	216	301	7.2	5.3	-26.2
BIBB	1,629	2,788	4,417	7.2	8.2	14.9
BLECKLEY	86	135	221	2.7	5.6	108.5
BRANTLEY	43	158	201	3.2	3.8	18.5
BROOKS	65	116	181	2.4	2.9	21.5
BRYAN	40	329	369	3.6	3.9	9.3
BULLOCH	339	373	712	4.4	4.9	10.5
BURKE	43	40	83	1.8	0.9	-51.4
BUTTS	47	198	245	4.6	4.3	-7.7
CALHOUN	35	65	100	4.2	4.8	13.7
CAMDEN	330	842	1,172	5.8	8.3	43.6
CANDLER	1	3	4	*	*	*
CARROLL	640	1,148	1,788	6.2	6.4	2.9
CATOOSA	49	226	275	4.3	1.6	-63.2
CHARLTON	43	89	132	0.7	3.5	436.9
CHATHAM	2,288	4,440	6,728	5.2	9.1	75.4
CHATTAHOOCHEE	44	58	102	1.9	1.9	-0.7
CHATTOOGA	47	48	95	1.9	1.2	-35.7
CHEROKEE	351	1,453	1,804	4.3	4.7	9.9
CLARKE	1,365	2,298	3,663	10.2	15.8	55.3
CLAY	10	9	19	2.4	1.4	-41.6
CLAYTON	2,947	3,431	6,378	7.4	9.1	23.8
CLINCH	25	43	68	2.4	2.5	4.5
COBB	811	2,028	2,839	2.1	1.7	-20.5
COFFEE	278	765	1,043	5.8	8.0	38.0
COLQUITT	461	931	1,392	8.9	9.5	6.1
COLUMBIA	229	660	889	2.0	2.6	33.7
COOK	148	265	413	7.8	7.5	-3.1
COWETA	551	943	1,494	4.0	5.5	39.3
CRAWFORD	17	3	20	0.2	0.5	160.5
CRISP	329	354	683	2.3	8.2	255.9
DADE	23	64	87	2.5	1.7	-31.0
DAWSON	28	100	128	1.1	2.8	147.8
DECATUR	213	360	573	8.0	5.2	-34.8
DEKALB	2,858	3,708	6,566	4.3	3.7	-14.5
DODGE	93	164	257	5.4	4.1	-24.8
DOOLY	30	39	69	1.2	1.6	38.8
DOUGHERTY	492	686	1,178	3.3	3.1	-7.3
DOUGLAS	869	2,442	3,311	8.1	10.8	32.9
EARLY	15	41	56	1.3	1.1	-13.9
ECHOLS	1	39	40	*	3.9	*
EFFINGHAM	74	251	325	3.6	2.3	-35.3
ELBERT	99	325	424	7.2	6.4	-10.1
EMANUEL	114	98	212	2.2	2.5	9.0
EVANS	16	47	63	2.3	1.7	-27.7
FANNIN	16	34	50	0.7	0.9	36.7
FAYETTE	417	1,527	1,944	4.3	6.1	40.8
FLOYD	334	605	939	5.5	3.6	-34.4
FORSYTH	80	269	349	1.6	1.6	0.3
FRANKLIN	70	94	164	2.1	2.9	35.4
FULTON	9,272	15,944	25,216	13.7	11.8	-13.8
GILMER	31	111	142	1.1	2.5	128.3
GLASCOCK	5	28	33	0.8	4.3	435.0
GLYNN	1,122	1,297	2,419	6.4	11.2	74.7
GORDON	327	827	1,154	5.9	8.1	37.1
GRADY	186	233	419	5.0	5.1	0.6
GREENE	106	116	222	2.5	4.1	63.4
GWINNETT	1,248	2,487	3,735	2.1	2.4	11.1
HABERSHAM	90	351	441	4.0	4.5	11.5
HALL	543	994	1,537	4.7	4.2	-10.5
HANCOCK	15	7	22	0.9	0.6	-36.6
HARALSON	33	172	205	3.1	2.6	-16.1
HARRIS	83	265	348	4.0	4.7	19.7
HART	5	150	155	1.2	2.1	82.5
HEARD	0	2	2	0.5	*	*
HENRY	192	827	1,019	4.7	3.3	-29.7
HOUSTON	2,670	6,279	8,949	28.6	24.8	-13.0
IRWIN	28	28	56	1.9	1.8	-5.9
JACKSON	144	441	585	3.7	4.7	29.3
JASPER	10	18	28	1.6	0.8	-48.6
JEFF DAVIS	56	303	359	3.7	7.6	106.8
JEFFERSON	29	15	44	0.6	0.6	1.2
JENKINS	24	33	57	2.1	1.7	-18.9
JOHNSON	24	38	62	*	1.9	*
JONES	49	133	182	2.9	2.3	-19.8
LAMAR	78	172	250	4.1	5.0	21.1
LANIER	15	48	63	3.5	2.5	-28.8
LAURENS	182	1,316	1,498	5.6	9.4	67.0
LEE	132	400	532	3.5	5.8	68.6
LIBERTY	197	650	847	8.9	4.7	-47.5
LINCOLN	4	1	5	0.7	0.2	-76.8
LONG	15	19	34	1.2	1.2	1.1
LOWNDES	548	620	1,168	2.5	4.0	58.0
LUMPKIN	95	324	419	6.2	7.8	24.5
MACON	54	30	84	1.8	1.5	-17.9
MADISON	19	51	70	0.6	0.8	32.4
MARION	84	23	107	5.7	4.6	-19.8
MCDUFFIE	17	15	32	0.3	0.4	25.9
MCINTOSH	16	44	60	0.2	1.7	608.7
MERIWETHER	110	381	491	4.5	5.5	20.8
MILLER	31	56	87	1.0	3.6	269.6
MITCHELL	104	280	384	5.8	4.2	-27.6
MONROE	95	332	427	5.8	6.2	6.6
MONTGOMERY	0	1	1	0.2	*	*
MORGAN	14	12	26	0.4	0.5	18.4
MURRAY	80	354	434	3.0	3.8	29.6
MUSCOGEE	3,052	5,797	8,849	14.2	14.7	3.2
NEWTON	214	118	332	2.3	1.8	-21.4
OCONEE	109	300	409	2.2	5.1	136.8
OGLETHORPE	0	0	0	*	*	*
PAULDING	291	943	1,234	8.0	5.6	-30.2
PEACH	48	172	220	2.4	2.6	9.6
PICKENS	11	23	34	1.6	0.6	-63.2
PIERCE	31	123	154	2.9	2.5	-13.2
PIKE	53	106	159	1.7	3.9	123.6
POLK	238	1,005	1,243	6.7	9.9	49.5
PULASKI	107	145	252	9.8	8.4	-14.4
PUTNAM	5	25	30	0.6	0.6	-10.3
QUITMAN	7	2	9	2.3	1.2	-46.8
RABUN	6	15	21	2.1	0.5	-74.1
RANDOLPH	33	32	65	2.2	2.0	-11.1
RICHMOND	1,708	5,702	7,410	9.4	11.3	20.5
ROCKDALE	302	563	865	3.2	3.6	12.8
SCHLEY	39	94	133	3.5	9.4	166.0
SCREVEN	75	140	215	4.5	3.8	-14.5
SEMINOLE	27	71	98	2.0	2.8	38.3
SPALDING	417	1,655	2,072	7.5	9.9	31.9
STEPHENS	24	58	82	2.0	1.0	-49.8
STEWART	61	185	246	9.1	11.9	30.6
SUMTER	166	412	578	6.0	4.8	-20.2
TALBOT	3	0	3	0.5	*	*
TALIAFERRO	0	0	0	0.7	*	*
TATTNALL	60	199	259	2.8	4.3	50.0
TAYLOR	30	28	58	1.4	1.9	28.6
TELFAIR	69	114	183	2.8	4.3	52.6
TERRELL	36	55	91	7.0	2.1	-70.6
THOMAS	468	639	1,107	5.3	7.0	33.7
TIFT	385	664	1,049	6.9	7.4	6.6
TOOMBS	308	450	758	5.4	7.6	41.1
TOWNS	3	1	4	*	*	*
TREUTLEN	33	101	134	3.9	5.9	49.8
TROUP	207	533	740	3.5	3.5	1.4
TURNER	67	213	280	3.9	7.4	89.7
TWIGGS	7	28	35	*	0.9	*
UNION	70	173	243	3.7	5.6	51.2
UPSON	305	1,104	1,409	11.6	15.2	30.9
WALKER	154	490	644	2.3	3.0	28.4
WALTON	2	26	28	0.9	0.2	-82.1
WARE	555	1,321	1,876	10.7	14.1	31.5
WARREN	12	24	36	*	1.6	*
WASHINGTON	107	414	521	6.7	6.9	2.6
WAYNE	30	112	142	0.3	1.5	375.9
WEBSTER	4	7	11	3.0	1.3	-57.1
WHEELER	11	33	44	1.4	2.2	56.5
WHITE	29	156	185	2.7	3.7	36.2
WHITFIELD	477	778	1,255	3.4	4.5	31.4
WILCOX	2	5	7	0.3	0.2	-24.1
WILKES	89	131	220	1.3	5.9	356.7
WILKINSON	57	179	236	1.4	5.7	309.0
WORTH	59	91	150	1.8	1.7	-3.8
GEORGIA	49,201	99,681	148,882	5.7	6.0	4.9

** Number too small to calculate a rate.* *** Ratios are per 100 youths ages 10 to 17.*

READING AND MATH SCORES ON THE IOWA TEST OF BASIC SKILLS (ITBS)

Definition:

Reading and math scores on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) refers to the percentile scores of students in grades three, five, and eight on the reading and math subtests of the ITBS. Percentile scores show the percent of all students in the national norming group who scored lower than the average student in that county.

GEORGIA'S [illegible] NATIONAL RA[illegible] *no ranking available*

This measure indicates how well children in Georgia's public schools are faring in reading and mathematics.

Georgia summary:

In 1997, third, fifth, and eighth grade students in Georgia public schools had reading and math scores on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills that fell near the national norms for their age groups.

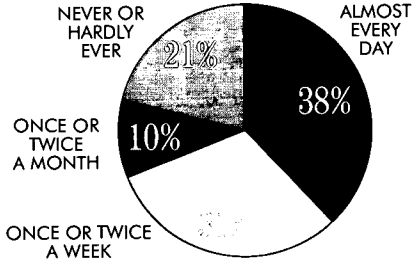
Learning and environment

It is important to understand the context of the environment in which Georgia eighth graders are learning.[1]

The frequency with which schoolwork is discussed at home can indicate the importance of school for students and their families.

Frequency with which schoolwork is discussed at home

GEORGIA EIGHTH GRADERS, 1996



Time spent watching television results in less time available for homework and related academic activities.

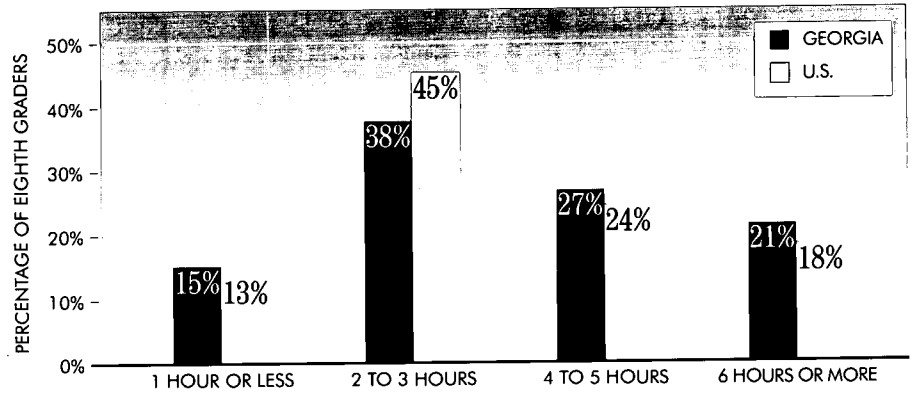
Computers are potentially valuable instructional tools that can be used at home and in the classroom.

- 39% of eighth-grade students reported that they had no computer at home. Another 18% reported never or hardly ever using their home computer to do homework.
- 15% of students had teachers who reported that no computers were available for use in their mathematics classes. Another 28% had teachers who reported that computers were available in a computer laboratory but were difficult to access or schedule.

The FY 1999 budget includes $41.8 million from state lottery funds for technology and equipment for Georgia schools (K-12).

Hours of television watched each day

GEORGIA EIGHTH GRADERS, 1996



SOURCE: National Assessment of Educational Progess

READING AND MATH SCORES ON THE IOWA TEST OF BASIC SKILLS (ITBS)

mal percentile scores of third, fifth, and eighth graders on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) for 1997.

COUNTY	3RD GRADERS READING	3RD GRADERS MATH	5TH GRADERS READING	5TH GRADERS MATH	8TH GRADERS READING	8TH GRADERS MATH
APPLING	55	62	55	56	46	57
ATKINSON	60	74	49	46	38	41
BACON	43	55	43	49	42	42
BAKER	31	41	27	38	*	*
BALDWIN	52	71	50	62	42	55
BANKS	55	58	55	63	51	52
BARROW	57	65	53	56	52	52
BARTOW	57	69	52	60	46	58
BEN HILL	38	46	39	46	36	45
BERRIEN	41	46	40	34	40	46
BIBB	47	55	50	53	38	45
BLECKLEY	67	72	50	63	51	59
BRANTLEY	48	50	49	48	43	48
BRDOKS	22	27	33	41	33	37
BRYAN	56	59	56	60	50	51
BULLOCH	53	60	48	54	46	53
BURKE	33	43	37	49	31	47
BUTTS	34	34	35	25	37	38
CALHOUN	26	30	35	32	20	25
CAMDEN	52	62	51	63	52	55
CANDLER	32	42	44	46	39	44
CARROLL	43	48	50	52	49	52
CATOOSA	55	61	54	56	53	51
CHARLTON	45	59	42	39	39	36
CHATHAM	43	51	44	49	34	41
CHATTAHOOCHEE	31	43	45	50	47	54
CHATTOOGA	52	54	54	49	50	49
CHEROKEE	61	68	61	65	60	59
CLARKE	49	55	51	55	47	46
CLAY	34	46	30	40	*	*
CLAYTON	41	51	45	50	44	49
CLINCH	44	62	36	49	39	50
COBB	60	68	60	69	61	66
COFFEE	48	58	43	45	38	45
COLQUITT	45	51	47	48	42	48
COLUMBIA	63	70	60	66	62	62
COOK	42	47	41	38	40	47
COWETA	51	62	53	62	51	56
CRAWFORD	53	63	46	49	49	60
CRISP	44	57	43	54	38	47
DADE	64	70	54	59	58	65
DAWSON	65	68	52	51	55	56
DECATUR	52	57	52	58	49	49
DEKALB	48	59	49	51	41	46
DODGE	59	66	57	60	48	50
DOOLY	35	51	38	52	29	45
DOUGHERTY	41	49	44	46	36	48
DOUGLAS	53	61	54	58	55	63
EARLY	47	71	39	48	33	36
ECHOLS	40	40	52	51	52	59
EFFINGHAM	52	61	56	63	46	55
ELBERT	40	50	48	45	39	44
EMANUEL	44	55	37	43	37	49
EVANS	30	38	35	31	50	61
FANNIN	51	57	55	56	57	57
FAYETTE	67	76	64	74	69	71
FLOYD	54	62	55	56	55	58
FORSYTH	64	71	61	66	62	65
FRANKLIN	53	65	57	63	51	65
FULTON	55	60	54	57	47	54
GILMER	45	52	53	48	50	47
GLASCOCK	60	75	62	78	49	59
GLYNN	42	50	50	55	47	48
GORDON	58	65	55	57	51	58
GRADY	49	62	51	65	43	51
GREENE	40	54	38	41	27	40
GWINNETT	67	74	62	70	63	67
HABERSHAM	62	68	59	63	53	59
HALL	55	64	56	59	50	52
HANCOCK	40	47	47	57	66	56
HARALSON	50	60	49	46	53	57
HARRIS	56	70	52	58	46	52
HART	43	56	47	55	50	60
HEARD	53	55	51	55	51	48
HENRY	58	61	54	58	54	58
HOUSTON	53	61	53	59	49	55
IRWIN	37	47	43	48	45	59
JACKSON	49	56	54	57	50	56
JASPER	43	55	40	46	47	55
JEFF DAVIS	47	55	51	50	46	46
JEFFERSON	36	50	37	43	29	37
JENKINS	52	61	49	53	42	64
JOHNSON	27	43	29	42	42	61
JONES	51	58	58	70	47	46
LAMAR	49	50	41	41	38	44
LANIER	43	46	39	34	38	42
LAURENS	47	56	50	54	47	53
LEE	59	67	56	69	52	67
LIBERTY	48	52	50	54	42	43
LINCOLN	41	55	44	46	42	64
LONG	45	58	45	52	40	48
LOWNDES	50	62	51	58	47	52
LUMPKIN	62	65	63	70	58	67
MACON	41	51	34	35	32	37
MADISON	54	57	56	60	47	52
MARION	43	43	47	41	36	37
MCDUFFIE	42	47	40	41	39	51
MCINTOSH	30	33	35	39	29	45
MERIWETHER	30	33	35	31	28	32
MILLER	41	53	49	53	51	55
MITCHELL	40	50	35	35	34	43
MONROE	47	42	50	49	54	51
MONTGOMERY	42	38	46	47	47	52
MORGAN	48	59	55	64	48	58
MURRAY	42	48	50	50	44	49
MUSCOGEE	43	51	48	49	43	50
NEWTON	50	60	50	59	45	55
OCONEE	65	74	64	68	62	65
OGLETHORPE	53	66	45	56	47	56
PAULDING	55	57	53	54	51	52
PEACH	46	50	43	45	49	60
PICKENS	42	53	57	59	46	44
PIERCE	50	54	48	48	44	45
PIKE	47	50	51	49	48	54
POLK	38	40	41	37	41	42
PULASKI	45	48	45	50	48	50
PUTNAM	51	57	50	55	43	52
QUITMAN	16	28	23	22	*	*
RABUN	65	77	58	64	55	56
RANDOLPH	19	32	32	46	31	44
RICHMOND	38	44	41	42	37	42
ROCKDALE	64	74	63	71	59	66
SCHLEY	40	55	41	53	*	*
SCREVEN	38	49	38	51	41	56
SEMINOLE	42	45	40	35	43	56
SPALDING	46	48	49	51	49	51
STEPHENS	62	65	54	55	52	57
STEWART	30	40	38	39	24	44
SUMTER	33	46	37	43	26	38
TALBOT	26	35	24	14	32	39
TALIAFERRO	30	49	31	48	*	*
TATTNALL	40	47	44	48	46	50
TAYLOR	43	49	35	33	37	42
TELFAIR	42	51	45	46	37	38
TERRELL	33	46	29	32	22	37
THOMAS	46	53	48	53	42	51
TIFT	47	60	49	59	44	47
TOOMBS	51	55	52	53	52	56
TOWNS	72	83	56	57	55	57
TREUTLEN	43	46	48	49	35	37
TROUP	44	51	45	49	42	50
TURNER	36	39	37	50	39	44
TWIGGS	28	38	36	39	24	32
UNION	64	70	58	59	61	49
UPSON	54	60	54	58	49	54
WALKER	51	62	49	57	44	48
WALTON	49	60	54	61	46	46
WARE	54	71	52	66	46	54
WARREN	18	27	30	21	24	40
WASHINGTON	38	46	45	51	37	50
WAYNE	44	54	46	43	42	42
WEBSTER	35	32	30	39	*	*
WHEELER	39	37	37	53	37	40
WHITE	58	63	57	59	56	62
WHITFIELD	55	65	49	55	51	59
WILCOX	42	51	53	58	51	55
WILKES	44	47	55	68	46	59
WILKINSON	40	56	40	63.	37	60
WORTH	45	49	44	46	42	42
GEORGIA	52	59	52	57	48	54

** No scores for eighth graders reported for county.*

Definition:

High school dropouts refers to students in grades 9 through 12 who are reported by the school system as dropouts. The data are reported by school, not place of student's residence.

GEORGIA'S RANK: 45
NATIONAL RANK

Georgia summary:

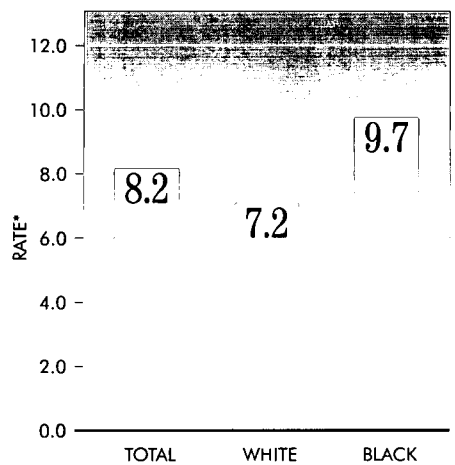
In 1997, 8.2 percent of Georgia public high school students (29,278 students) were reported as dropouts. The dropout rate for black students (9.7 per 100 enrolled public high school students during the 1996-97 school year) was higher than the dropout rate for white students (7.2 per 100 enrolled public high school students during the 1996-97 school year).

Benefits of education

Education's benefits are not limited to the individual. Society and the nation's economy profit as well.[2]

- *Employment rates* among persons who have recently left high school differ according to whether they complete high school or drop out. In 1996, 59% of those who recently completed high school (but were not enrolled in college) were employed, compared to 42% of recent high school dropouts.
- Male high school dropouts (age 25 to 34) had *median annual earnings* that were 31% less than males who had a high school diploma or GED. Female high school dropouts earned 36% less than females who had a high school diploma or GED. Males and females with a bachelor's degree or higher earned 54% and 88% more, respectively, than those with a high school diploma or GED.
- Education tends to reduce *reliance on welfare and public assistance programs.* In 1996, 25- to 30-year-olds who had dropped out of high school were about three times more likely to receive income from Aid to Families with Dependent Children (now Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF) or public assistance income than those who had completed high school but had not gone to college (12 versus 4 percent).
- *Electoral participation* by high school dropouts is lower than it is among high school graduates. In 1996, adults who had a high school diploma or GED (72%) were more likely than those with less than a high school education (51%) to have voted in a national or state election in the past five years. Adults with a bachelor's degree had a 91% participation rate.
- Adults with less than a high school education were more likely than adults with a high school diploma, GED, or higher to report that they hardly ever *read a newspaper.*

High school dropout rates
BY RACE, GEORGIA 1997



* PER 100 ENROLLED PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

58

59

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS

ts reported by the school system, number for the 1996-97 school year, rates† for the 1995-96 and 1996-97 school years, and percent change between the two time periods.

COUNTY	NUMBER 1997	RATE 1996	RATE 1997	PERCENT CHANGE
APPLING	84	6.8	7.9	16.1
ATKINSON	48	12.1	12.8	5.4
BACON	61	13.5	9.8	-27.4
BAKER**				
BALDWIN	191	13.2	11.4	-13.5
BANKS	41	8.9	7.9	-10.6
BARROW	148	12.0	9.4	-21.6
BARTOW	393	3.1	12.3	297.1
BEN HILL	113	7.6	11.1	46.0
BERRIEN	89	12.4	12.0	-2.9
BIBB	633	12.6	10.3	-18.0
BLECKLEY	55	7.7	8.3	8.3
BRANTLEY	77	14.2	10.1	-29.2
BROOKS	114	16.6	15.4	-7.0
BRYAN	188	10.1	14.1	40.1
BULLOCH	230	10.2	10.6	4.2
BURKE	128	10.5	9.4	-10.9
BUTTS	103	9.8	12.8	30.4
CALHOUN	18	9.1	6.9	-24.1
CAMDEN	262	14.5	12.6	-13.2
CANDLER	26	7.0	6.4	-9.3
CARROLL	283	8.6	7.0	-18.0
CATOOSA	164	8.0	7.1	-12.1
CHARLTON	51	9.5	9.9	4.5
CHATHAM	863	8.2	9.5	16.7
CHATTAHOOCHEE**				
CHATTOOGA	84	11.7	7.5	-36.1
CHEROKEE	295	6.2	5.4	-12.0
CLARKE	445	15.0	14.3	-4.5
CLAY**				
CLAYTON	1,298	11.1	12.2	9.9
CLINCH	25	8.9	6.5	-27.0
COBB	929	4.2	3.7	-13.2
COFFEE	199	12.2	11.2	-8.1
COLQUITT	210	9.4	9.3	-0.2
COLUMBIA	332	2.2	6.4	189.8
COOK	76	13.6	10.3	-24.1
COWETA	420	6.6	12.2	85.2
CRAWFORD	59	2.2	11.2	401.9
CRISP	141	15.0	11.3	-24.6
DADE	55	8.9	8.4	-5.7
DAWSON	80	12.7	14.4	13.8
DECATUR	173	11.7	10.9	-6.7
DEKALB	1,913	8.7	7.7	-11.4
DODGE	80	8.8	8.5	-3.7
DOOLY	49	13.8	9.8	-29.3
DOUGHERTY	613	15.8	12.7	-19.7
DOUGLAS	256	3.2	5.6	74.2
EARLY	38	6.9	5.1	-27.2
ECHOLS	8	6.2	5.1	-18.0
EFFINGHAM	166	7.0	8.3	18.5
ELBERT	99	7.3	9.3	26.9
EMANUEL	148	8.8	10.5	19.5
EVANS	26	8.2	5.5	-32.7
FANNIN	94	12.6	10.7	-15.2
FAYETTE	138	4.7	2.5	-45.9
FLOYD	154	6.5	4.0	-38.9
FORSYTH	193	9.0	7.0	-21.6
FRANKLIN	113	12.3	12.7	3.2
FULTON	2,576	7.4	8.4	12.5
GILMER	72	7.9	9.0	13.4
GLASCOCK	6	5.8	4.3	-26.1
GLYNN	492	12.7	15.7	23.4
GORDON	166	9.2	8.7	-5.5
GRADY	163	12.0	13.6	13.6
GREENE	87	9.9	12.5	26.3
GWINNETT	1,224	5.2	5.1	-2.0
HABERSHAM	88	11.3	6.0	-47.1
HALL	452	11.1	8.6	-22.7
HANCOCK	46	6.8	8.6	25.9
HARALSON	127	10.7	10.8	1.4
HARRIS	59	6.2	6.0	-2.9
HART	79	5.8	8.0	37.8
HEARD	43	8.8	9.1	4.1
HENRY	363	8.9	8.1	-8.7
HOUSTON	337	7.7	5.8	-24.3
IRWIN	37	12.2	6.4	-47.4
JACKSON	166	10.8	9.0	-17.1
JASPER	18	6.5	3.7	-43.6
JEFF DAVIS	60	8.7	7.8	-10.3
JEFFERSON	90	8.4	8.9	6.0
JENKINS	49	9.8	9.6	-2.1
JOHNSON	29	13.4	7.5	-43.9
JONES	70	2.6	5.3	107.9
LAMAR	70	12.4	10.3	-17.1
LANIER	50	8.4	12.3	46.3
LAURENS	225	8.7	8.6	-1.2
LEE	33	2.9	2.3	-22.3
LIBERTY	120	4.0	4.2	5.0
LINCOLN	35	7.9	8.5	6.7
LONG	54	4.9	15.6	215.8
LOWNDES	333	9.6	8.0	-16.5
LUMPKIN	39	13.8	5.3	-61.5
MACON	58	8.9	7.9	-11.6
MADISON	127	11.8	10.8	-8.2
MARION	50	10.7	7.8	-26.8
MCDUFFIE	139	13.1	11.5	-12.0
MCINTOSH	51	14.1	12.1	-14.4
MERIWETHER	144	10.9	12.7	16.5
MILLER	24	7.5	6.5	-13.2
MITCHELL	110	8.6	7.9	-7.7
MONROE	98	10.5	9.5	-9.6
MONTGOMERY	21	12.5	6.8	-45.4
MORGAN	80	10.4	9.9	-5.6
MURRAY	222	15.1	14.7	-2.5
MUSCOGEE	919	8.6	9.7	12.9
NEWTON	157	5.2	7.1	36.4
OCONEE	75	4.6	5.6	20.2
OGLETHORPE	52	10.7	9.9	-7.9
PAULDING	301	7.9	10.5	32.9
PEACH	97	5.0	7.9	58.4
PICKENS	129	11.3	14.3	26.2
PIERCE	94	11.4	10.8	-5.9
PIKE	56	6.5	8.1	25.1
POLK	210	12.8	12.0	-6.4
PULASKI	28	7.2	5.8	-19.5
PUTNAM	29	7.4	4.3	-42.0
QUITMAN**				
RABUN	56	9.5	11.0	16.5
RANDOLPH	67	11.2	10.2	-9.0
RICHMOND	873	10.1	8.7	-13.7
ROCKDALE	156	5.1	4.2	-16.8
SCHLEY**				
SCREVEN	84	13.5	9.1	-32.9
SEMINOLE	40	1.8	7.3	298.5
SPALDING	365	16.2	13.1	-19.4
STEPHENS	106	10.9	9.7	-10.9
STEWART	30	8.0	10.9	36.3
SUMTER	143	11.8	9.3	-21.4
TALBOT	25	7.2	9.9	38.3
TALIAFERRO**				
TATTNALL	96	10.0	11.2	12.3
TAYLOR	38	10.3	8.0	-22.8
TELFAIR	60	11.5	10.7	-6.6
TERRELL	17	*	3.0	*
THOMAS	200	7.8	8.7	11.4
TIFT	196	11.2	9.2	-17.9
TOOMBS	141	9.2	10.3	12.6
TOWNS	6	6.5	2.5	-61.7
TREUTLEN	25	9.2	6.9	-24.7
TROUP	236	6.3	8.1	28.0
TURNER	68	9.1	12.3	34.8
TWIGGS	63	12.3	11.5	-6.1
UNION	115	14.1	14.0	-0.8
UPSON	110	8.5	8.1	-4.4
WALKER	295	14.9	11.0	-25.8
WALTON	159	10.6	6.7	-36.8
WARE	101	6.4	5.5	-14.4
WARREN	23	8.7	8.8	0.8
WASHINGTON	141	11.7	12.5	7.2
WAYNE	127	11.7	9.2	-21.0
WEBSTER**				
WHEELER	17	3.8	5.5	46.5
WHITE	53	8.1	7.0	-13.9
WHITFIELD	406	10.5	10.6	1.0
WILCOX	32	7.0	7.9	12.5
WILKES	20	3.9	3.3	-14.0
WILKINSON	49	7.4	9.2	25.3
WORTH	138	9.1	10.6	16.4
GEORGIA	29,278	8.4	8.2	-2.5

** Number too small to calculate a rate.* *** No high school in county.*

† Rates are per 100 enrolled public high school students.

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Definition:

Births to teens refers to live births to mothers between ages 15 and 17 (inclusive) at the time of the birth. *Repeat births* refers to live births to mothers (age 15 through 17) who have already given birth to a child who is still living. Data are reported by the mother's place of residence, not the place of the infant's birth.

GEORGIA'S 1[illegible] NATIONAL RA[illegible] 45

Georgia summary:

In 1997, 7,071 babies were born to mothers between age 15 and 17; 950 of these were repeat births. The teen birth rate for blacks (70.9 per 1,000 females age 15 to 17 during 1997) was more than twice the rate for whites (33.7 per 1,000 females age 15 to 17 during 1997). Georgia's teen birth rate decreased by 4.0 percent between 1992-1994 and 1995-1997.

Teens and risk behaviors

According to a 1993 survey, many Georgia high school students (in grades 9 through 12) engage in behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.[2]

- 66 percent have had sexual intercourse during their lifetime
- 50 percent had sexual intercourse during the previous three months
- 30 percent have had sexual intercourse during their lifetime with *four or more* sex partners

Among currently sexually active Georgia high school students:

- 55 percent reported that either they or their partner had used a condom during last sexual intercourse
- 17 percent reported birth control pill use during last sexual intercourse

Teens and AIDS

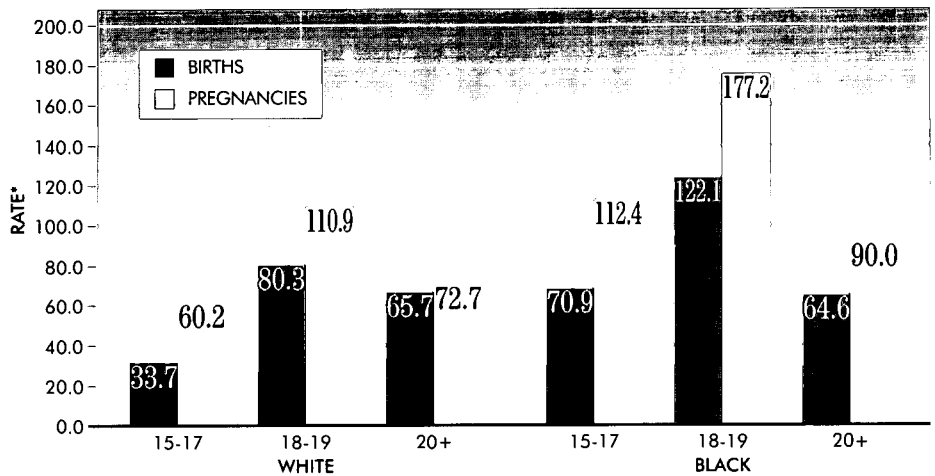
Through the first half of 1998, 111 AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) cases were reported for Georgia teenagers age 13 through 19.[3] About half of these were transmitted through sexual contact.

Condom availability programs

In Georgia and across the nation, condom availability programs are being established to decrease high teen pregnancy rates and the threat of STDs. Despite the public health benefits, some persons question whether these programs encourage adolescent sexual activity. Several recent studies concluded that condom availability programs do *not* lead to increased sexual activity among high school students.[4,5,6] Also, findings are broadly consistent in showing that condom availability programs increase condom use among males who are already sexually active.[7,8]

Birth rates and pregnancy rates

BY AGE AND RACE, GEORGIA 1997



* PER 1,000 FEMALES AGE 15 TO 17

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BIRTHS TO TEENS

...o girls ages 15 to 17, number for 1995-1997, rates† for 1992-1994 and 1995-1997, and percent change between the two time periods. Repeat births to girls ages 15 to 17, ... and rate†† for 1995-1997. ***NOTE: Rates for "All Births" cannot be compared directly to "Repeat Birth" rates (see Methodology).***

	ALL BIRTHS				REPEAT BIRTHS	
COUNTY	1995-97 NUMBER	1992-94 RATE	1995-97 RATE	PERCENT CHANGE	1995-97 NUMBER	1995-97 RATE
APPLING	69	59.0	55.9	-5.2	10	14.5
ATKINSON	50	87.8	104.4	19.0	6	12.0
BACON	49	69.0	61.9	-10.2	5	10.2
BAKER	16	40.0	55.9	39.8	0	*
BALDWIN	104	57.6	48.7	-15.4	11	10.6
BANKS	32	46.2	45.9	-0.8	3	*
BARROW	105	39.9	48.0	20.1	7	6.7
BARTOW	253	58.7	64.4	9.7	26	10.3
BEN HILL	79	82.4	59.5	-27.8	14	17.7
BERRIEN	38	67.4	41.7	-38.2	6	15.8
BIBB	671	64.9	67.2	3.6	113	16.8
BLECKLEY	45	52.8	62.8	19.0	10	22.2
BRANTLEY	19	48.0	21.8	-54.7	1	*
BROOKS	54	63.2	47.4	-25.0	7	13.0
BRYAN	69	42.4	43.2	2.0	9	13.0
BULLOCH	104	55.7	43.4	-22.1	22	21.2
BURKE	108	70.6	69.3	-1.9	12	11.1
BUTTS	43	52.6	45.0	-14.5	2	*
CALHOUN	20	44.0	60.6	37.5	5	25.0
CAMDEN	72	28.2	29.1	3.2	5	6.9
CANDLER	34	48.4	52.4	8.3	6	17.6
CARROLL	251	50.4	50.3	-0.1	42	16.7
CATOOSA	127	45.3	42.9	-5.2	13	10.2
CHARLTON	41	45.4	63.1	38.8	6	14.6
CHATHAM	753	70.1	59.1	-15.6	124	16.5
CHATTAHOOCHEE	27	37.8	35.2	-6.9	0	*
CHATTOOGA	88	61.7	63.0	2.2	8	9.1
CHEROKEE	198	29.1	31.5	8.0	13	6.6
CLARKE	204	56.7	50.7	-10.6	22	10.8
CLAY	18	106.1	80.9	-23.7	2	*
CLAYTON	611	40.8	48.8	19.6	72	11.8
CLINCH	26	48.5	50.1	3.3	3	*
COBB	784	25.8	27.4	6.2	93	11.9
COFFEE	204	78.0	86.9	11.3	40	19.6
COLQUITT	193	81.9	76.2	-7.0	30	15.5
COLUMBIA	139	22.6	24.9	10.2	8	5.8
COOK	65	61.5	66.4	8.0	12	18.5
COWETA	229	47.8	46.9	-1.8	35	15.3
CRAWFORD	24	60.9	33.1	-45.7	4	*
CRISP	126	93.5	83.0	-11.2	14	11.1
DADE	31	45.6	36.8	-19.3	4	*
DAWSON	32	41.6	41.9	0.8	4	*
DECATUR	146	74.2	74.2	0.0	24	16.4
DEKALB	1,429	41.7	44.3	6.1	184	12.9
DODGE	56	43.7	46.3	5.8	5	8.9
DOOLY	61	69.9	87.4	25.1	7	11.5
DOUGHERTY	465	69.4	64.8	-6.6	101	21.7
DOUGLAS	186	35.7	35.6	-0.3	14	7.5
EARLY	79	77.8	88.2	13.3	13	16.5
ECHOLS	7	60.5	57.4	-5.1	3	*
EFFINGHAM	98	33.5	43.6	29.9	8	8.2
ELBERT	82	87.6	80.8	-7.8	11	13.4
EMANUEL	100	65.2	67.3	3.4	11	11.0
EVANS	51	70.1	79.0	12.7	5	9.8
FANNIN	42	39.5	43.2	9.5	3	*
FAYETTE	71	8.3	13.2	59.5	2	*
FLOYD	230	59.1	49.4	-16.4	26	11.3
FORSYTH	90	30.2	22.7	-24.9	5	5.6
FRANKLIN	67	55.7	62.0	11.3	9	13.4
FULTON	2,357	70.6	59.8	-15.3	438	18.6
GILMER	71	58.3	72.1	23.5	6	8.5
GLASCOCK	5	75.7	39.7	-47.6	0	*
GLYNN	237	60.4	62.2	3.0	37	15.6
GORDON	144	54.8	57.5	4.9	14	9.7
GRADY	87	58.4	57.4	-1.7	17	19.5
GREENE	60	56.1	63.1	12.3	12	20.0
GWINNETT	467	18.3	17.6	-3.7	45	9.6
HABERSHAM	111	38.2	65.6	71.9	11	10.0
HALL	328	53.0	52.4	-1.1	49	14.9
HANCOCK	37	40.1	49.2	22.7	7	18.9
HARALSON	67	47.7	46.4	-2.7	4	*
HARRIS	32	43.0	24.9	-42.1	4	*
HART	47	38.7	37.2	-3.9	6	12.8
HEARD	32	40.6	43.9	8.2	1	*
HENRY	171	34.4	31.8	-7.4	17	9.9
HOUSTON	234	43.8	37.2	-15.2	21	9.0
IRWIN	36	58.8	66.6	13.3	6	16.7
JACKSON	123	61.5	61.5	-0.1	15	12.2
JASPER	31	49.5	49.7	0.5	1	*
JEFF DAVIS	47	55.7	56.9	2.1	4	*
JEFFERSON	62	56.7	45.4	-19.8	4	*
JENKINS	37	67.2	62.2	-7.5	3	*
JOHNSON	45	82.9	75.6	-8.8	11	24.4
JONES	47	32.0	33.7	5.3	5	10.6
LAMAR	55	67.4	61.2	-9.2	3	*
LANIER	19	48.3	42.0	-12.9	3	*
LAURENS	157	54.8	56.9	3.9	18	11.5
LEE	62	23.4	38.7	65.2	3	*
LIBERTY	165	70.9	57.3	-19.1	23	13.9
LINCOLN	20	44.6	38.3	-14.2	2	*
LONG	26	56.5	46.7	-17.4	2	*
LOWNDES	265	58.5	50.3	-14.0	37	14.0
LUMPKIN	40	46.6	43.6	-6.4	4	*
MACON	72	56.5	68.1	20.5	15	20.8
MADISON	66	45.9	48.4	5.4	9	13.6
MARION	13	31.8	34.0	7.0	1	*
MCDUFFIE	89	70.8	61.8	-12.7	13	14.6
MCINTOSH	35	51.8	48.5	-6.4	2	*
MERIWETHER	98	60.8	58.8	-3.2	13	13.3
MILLER	20	39.1	47.9	22.4	2	*
MITCHELL	95	72.1	58.9	-18.3	18	18.9
MONROE	49	40.7	39.2	-3.7	8	16.3
MONTGOMERY	31	40.8	60.8	48.9	4	*
MORGAN	51	53.4	57.2	7.1	7	13.7
MURRAY	145	47.7	73.9	54.9	10	6.9
MUSCOGEE	668	72.0	60.5	-16.0	89	13.3
NEWTON	183	54.3	52.8	-2.8	23	12.6
OCONEE	37	21.8	27.9	27.7	5	13.5
OGLETHORPE	29	36.3	42.6	17.3	6	20.7
PAULDING	119	37.9	31.8	-16.2	11	9.2
PEACH	64	60.9	42.8	-29.7	9	14.1
PICKENS	38	41.6	38.4	-7.5	2	*
PIERCE	51	48.6	46.0	-5.4	4	*
PIKE	37	45.1	49.5	9.8	4	*
POLK	129	47.7	58.4	22.4	8	6.2
PULASKI	23	30.7	40.5	31.9	3	*
PUTNAM	47	34.8	47.3	36.0	7	14.9
QUITMAN	10	38.1	69.9	83.5	1	*
RABUN	27	45.5	34.3	-24.6	5	18.5
RANDOLPH	49	78.3	92.3	17.9	7	14.3
RICHMOND	678	65.8	57.6	-12.4	81	11.9
ROCKDALE	120	35.1	27.9	-20.4	13	10.8
SCHLEY	25	72.1	93.6	29.9	1	*
SCREVEN	62	58.7	68.6	16.9	9	14.5
SEMINOLE	45	66.9	71.7	7.1	9	20.0
SPALDING	251	69.9	66.3	-5.0	36	14.3
STEPHENS	73	37.6	51.4	36.8	7	9.6
STEWART	18	49.1	46.0	-6.4	5	27.8
SUMTER	155	64.1	67.1	4.7	20	12.9
TALBOT	25	54.3	59.3	9.1	5	20.0
TALIAFERRO	6	38.0	42.8	12.5	1	*
TATTNALL	93	59.4	85.0	43.1	11	11.8
TAYLOR	45	61.3	76.8	25.3	11	24.4
TELFAIR	51	58.9	78.8	33.6	7	13.7
TERRELL	73	82.7	89.3	8.0	16	21.9
THOMAS	150	69.5	52.4	-24.6	18	12.0
TIFT	204	74.6	79.7	6.9	34	16.7
TOOMBS	155	68.7	91.8	33.6	18	11.6
TOWNS	13	15.2	36.9	143.9	0	*
TREUTLEN	32	58.5	75.6	29.2	5	15.6
TROUP	235	69.7	63.1	-9.6	35	14.9
TURNER	51	128.0	85.6	-33.1	9	17.6
TWIGGS	40	45.2	61.2	35.4	4	*
UNION	26	54.7	34.8	-36.5	2	*
UPSON	98	66.0	61.2	-7.4	15	15.3
WALKER	204	58.6	55.9	-4.6	22	10.8
WALTON	153	52.6	49.7	-5.5	17	11.1
WARE	164	62.4	69.3	11.0	21	12.8
WARREN	24	62.0	68.6	10.7	1	*
WASHINGTON	77	47.6	55.4	16.4	8	10.4
WAYNE	102	58.0	60.8	4.9	11	10.8
WEBSTER	8	60.7	59.3	-2.3	2	*
WHEELER	20	51.3	51.6	0.5	4	*
WHITE	41	37.2	44.7	20.3	2	*
WHITFIELD	323	58.5	64.9	11.0	37	11.5
WILCOX	38	58.5	91.7	56.8	2	*
WILKES	51	52.6	76.8	45.9	9	17.6
WILKINSON	43	32.2	58.9	83.1	2	*
WORTH	80	51.9	49.1	-5.4	14	17.5
GEORGIA	21,516	51.1	49.1	-4.0	2,903	13.5

** Number too small to calculate a rate.* *† Rates are per 1,000 girls age 15 to 17.*

†† Rate is per 100 births to teens age 15 to 17.

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Definition:

This index measures first births to mothers (Georgia residents) with at least one, or all, of three risk factors: not a high school graduate, under age 20 at birth, or unmarried. Data are reported by the mother's place of residence.

Georgia summary:

In 1997, 24,893 families began at an increased risk of poverty because the mother was a teenager, was unmarried, or had not completed high school. Babies in these families represented half (49.6 percent) of all first births to Georgia mothers. Almost one-third (7,684) of these babies was born to a mother with *all three* risk factors. The prevalence of black families with at least one risk factor was two times that of white families (77.1 and 37.4 per 100 first births to Georgia mothers during 1997). The prevalence of black families with all three risk factors was almost three times that of white families (28.0 and 9.6). The rate of families starting with at least one risk factor did not change substantially between 1992-1994 and 1995-1997 (0.1 percent increase).

Family characteristics associated with poverty

Although economic trends and community factors influence the extent of poverty among Georgia families, several family characteristics are also associated with above-average poverty rates.[1]

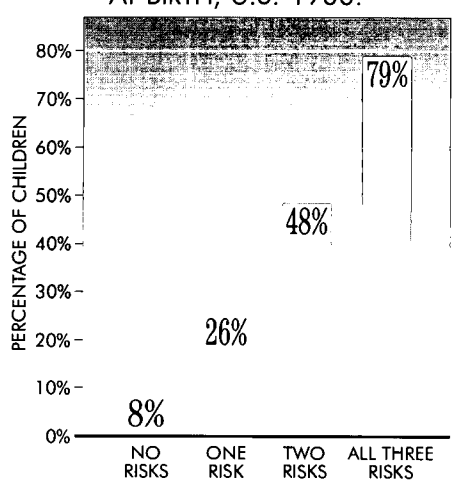
- Parents with less than a high school education tend to have low skill levels, are less likely to have steady employment, and are less likely to have jobs that provide more than poverty-level wages.
- Young parents tend to have little job experience, low wage rates, and poor job security.
- It is more costly for two parents to live apart than to live together because each must pay for separate housing, utilities, and appliances.
- Female-headed families are more vulnerable to poverty in part because the average wage rate for women still falls short of the average wage rate for men.

Multiple risk factors

Poverty is not inevitable for every family that has one of the risk factors. For instance, many single-parent families are financially secure. However, the effect of each risk factor is cumulative and makes a family more vulnerable to poverty.[2]

Children (ages 7 to 12) in poverty

BY NUMBER OF RISK FACTORS AT BIRTH, U.S. 1988.



SOURCE: 1993 KIDS COUNT Data Book.

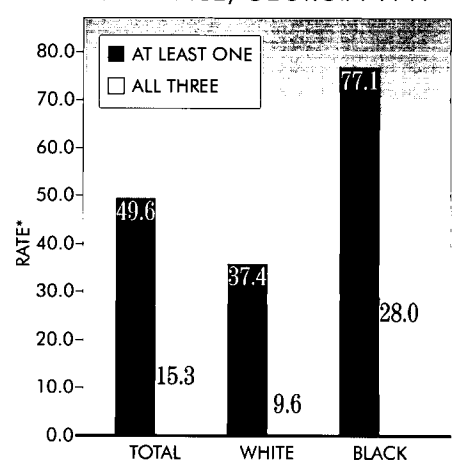
Child support

Many of Georgia's noncustodial parents do not provide even modest amounts of money regularly to help pay for the needs of their children.

In Georgia from July 1997 to June 1998, only about 50 percent of those who owed child support actually made payments.[3] About 95 percent of noncustodial Georgia parents who owed child support were fathers. Throughout the U.S. in 1991, custodial mothers were 2 ½ times more likely to be poor than custodial fathers.[4] Several recently-enacted laws make child support collection easier. These measures allow deductions to be taken directly from a noncustodial parent's paycheck and require states to enforce child support orders granted in other states.

Families starting at risk

RATES BY RACE, GEORGIA 1997



* PER 100 FIRST BIRTHS TO GEORGIA MOTHERS

MILIES STARTING AT RISK OF POVERTY

*ths to mothers with at least one risk factor†, number for 1995-1997, rates** for 1992-1994 and 1995-1997, and percent change between the two time periods.*
*ths to mothers with all three risk factors†, number and rate** for 1995-1997.*

COUNTY	AT LEAST ONE 1995-97 NUMBER	AT LEAST ONE 1992-94 RATE	AT LEAST ONE 1995-97 RATE	PERCENT CHANGE	ALL THREE 1995-97 NUMBER	ALL THREE 1995-97 RATE
APPLING	190	63.4	55.4	-12.6	56	16.3
ATKINSON	157	64.0	74.4	16.3	51	24.2
BACON	135	64.1	67.8	5.9	54	27.1
BAKER	39	72.7	76.5	5.1	17	33.3
BALDWIN	384	62.2	60.8	-2.3	132	20.9
BANKS	114	44.5	54.0	21.4	24	11.4
BARROW	388	44.9	43.9	-2.1	123	13.9
BARTOW	753	52.2	49.9	-4.5	249	16.5
BEN HILL	214	74.8	69.9	-6.6	76	24.8
BERRIEN	137	57.7	50.4	-12.7	41	15.1
BIBB	1,880	61.7	59.9	-2.9	778	24.8
BLECKLEY	109	58.4	58.6	0.4	34	18.3
BRANTLEY	73	56.4	56.2	-0.4	22	16.9
BROOKS	162	71.2	69.2	-2.8	64	27.4
BRYAN	223	48.1	47.1	-1.9	72	15.2
BULLOCH	405	51.4	50.2	-2.2	90	11.2
BURKE	327	68.7	75.2	9.4	137	31.5
BUTTS	171	66.3	61.1	-7.9	60	21.4
CALHOUN	72	78.0	69.9	-10.4	24	23.3
CAMDEN	358	35.9	39.3	9.6	71	7.8
CANOLER	98	57.1	59.0	3.5	33	19.9
CARROLL	799	54.5	51.8	-4.8	257	16.7
CATOOSA	396	48.5	48.8	0.7	128	15.8
CHARLTON	83	63.2	55.7	-11.8	30	20.1
CHATHAM	2,480	54.7	54.4	-0.5	856	18.8
CHATTAHOOCHEE	98	37.3	34.9	-6.6	26	9.3
CHATTOOGA	282	60.5	65.3	7.9	86	19.9
CHEROKEE	720	27.4	28.1	2.6	204	8.0
CLARKE	767	48.8	49.0	0.4	228	14.6
CLAY	49	73.6	65.3	-11.2	27	36.0
CLAYTON	2,768	53.0	58.2	9.6	691	14.5
CLINCH	88	62.1	63.8	2.7	33	23.9
COBB	3,740	32.0	33.4	4.5	797	7.1
COFFEE	505	67.7	65.3	-3.5	195	25.2
COLQUITT	501	68.4	67.8	-0.8	197	26.7
COLUMBIA	470	35.9	33.9	-5.4	136	9.8
COOK	169	61.9	60.6	-2.1	71	25.4
COWETA	667	42.9	39.7	-7.5	226	13.4
CRAWFORD	89	60.3	54.9	-8.9	25	15.4
CRISP	325	67.6	72.5	7.3	154	34.4
DADE	119	52.1	52.9	1.5	21	9.3
DAWSON	103	31.7	35.3	11.2	26	8.9
DECATUR	369	66.2	68.5	3.5	148	27.5
DEKALB	6,672	48.3	50.3	4.1	1,507	11.4
DODGE	181	61.7	56.9	-7.7	59	18.6
DOOLY	148	67.5	71.5	5.9	66	31.9
DOUGHERTY	1,332	66.3	68.0	2.5	540	27.6
DOUGLAS	684	42.8	40.8	-4.8	188	11.2
EARLY	165	74.9	74.3	-0.8	68	30.6
ECHOLS	16	64.5	64.0	-0.8	2	*
EFFINGHAM	270	44.2	47.4	7.1	100	17.5
ELBERT	213	61.6	62.8	2.0	94	27.7
EMANUEL	301	70.9	73.1	3.1	123	29.9
EVANS	121	64.8	66.9	3.2	50	27.6
FANNIN	152	50.0	55.1	10.1	40	14.5
FAYETTE	294	22.2	30.2	36.1	67	6.9
FLOYD	768	55.2	53.9	-2.3	253	17.8
FORSYTH	371	29.5	21.7	-26.5	89	5.2
FRANKLIN	178	56.5	55.6	-1.6	59	18.4
FULTON	7,676	53.7	50.9	-5.2	2,514	16.7
GILMER	185	52.9	59.1	11.6	58	18.5
GLASCOCK	24	57.5	58.5	1.8	6	14.6
GLYNN	642	57.4	59.1	3.0	240	22.1
GOROON	463	52.2	57.2	9.4	131	16.2
GRADY	289	62.3	69.1	11.1	100	23.9
GREENE	193	69.2	72.0	4.1	68	25.4
GWINNETT	2,517	25.0	25.1	0.6	470	4.7
HABERSHAM	279	53.1	51.1	-3.8	80	14.7
HALL	1,368	51.5	55.2	7.1	351	14.2
HANCOCK	156	84.0	88.1	5.0	49	27.7
HARALSON	216	57.8	52.9	-8.4	60	14.7
HARRIS	132	42.5	38.9	-8.5	31	9.1
HART	159	53.6	54.6	2.0	42	14.4
HEARD	112	63.1	59.3	-6.1	29	15.3
HENRY	627	32.3	31.7	-1.7	185	9.4
HOUSTON	914	46.6	49.8	6.9	289	15.8
IRWIN	92	59.0	59.7	1.3	32	20.8
JACKSON	383	54.4	54.9	0.9	119	17.0
JASPER	101	59.7	63.9	7.1	37	23.4
JEFF DAVIS	144	60.4	59.0	-2.2	42	17.2
JEFFERSON	280	69.3	72.9	5.3	87	22.7
JENKINS	103	70.7	69.1	-2.2	47	31.5
JOHNSON	103	74.4	64.4	-13.4	47	29.4
JONES	179	47.2	52.8	11.9	54	15.9
LAMAR	160	65.0	65.3	0.4	71	29.0
LANIER	61	67.0	61.6	-8.1	16	16.2
LAURENS	491	56.6	61.9	9.3	173	21.8
LEE	164	47.7	48.0	0.5	56	16.4
LIBERTY	810	41.6	42.9	3.0	149	7.9
LINCOLN	70	58.7	57.4	-2.3	23	18.9
LONG	113	44.2	49.1	11.1	24	10.4
LOWNDES	951	52.5	51.3	-2.4	311	16.8
LUMPKIN	135	45.5	47.4	4.0	46	16.1
MACON	192	74.0	78.4	5.9	84	34.3
MADISON	198	49.8	51.3	3.1	59	15.3
MARION	71	65.6	62.3	-5.0	17	14.9
MCDUFFIE	281	65.6	66.7	1.7	101	24.0
MCINTOSH	134	71.2	72.8	2.3	43	23.4
MERIWETHER	276	70.7	76.5	8.1	112	31.0
MILLER	63	56.0	63.0	12.5	22	22.0
MITCHELL	292	71.6	71.0	-0.7	103	25.1
MONROE	150	56.0	53.6	-4.4	48	17.1
MONTGOMERY	87	51.9	64.9	25.1	29	21.6
MORGAN	156	61.4	56.5	-7.9	52	18.8
MURRAY	419	57.0	62.9	10.4	126	18.9
MUSCOGEE	2,167	55.3	56.8	2.8	775	20.3
NEWTON	561	52.8	49.2	-6.9	182	16.0
OCONEE	107	33.3	32.2	-3.3	35	10.5
OGLETHORPE	92	49.2	52.0	5.6	29	16.4
PAULDING	407	28.5	29.2	2.4	109	7.8
PEACH	274	62.9	65.6	4.2	92	22.0
PICKENS	128	37.0	46.2	25.0	27	9.7
PIERCE	165	60.9	60.4	-0.8	42	15.4
PIKE	106	52.5	51.7	-1.5	36	17.6
POLK	466	62.1	63.6	2.4	142	19.4
PULASKI	73	52.4	58.4	11.5	23	18.4
PUTNAM	151	60.1	59.2	-1.5	47	18.4
QUITMAN	27	65.8	71.1	8.0	10	26.3
RABUN	106	43.2	47.1	9.1	32	14.2
RANDOLPH	116	80.0	76.8	-4.0	56	37.1
RICHMOND	2,470	60.0	60.4	0.7	894	21.9
ROCKDALE	413	44.4	43.7	-1.6	128	13.5
SCHLEY	59	51.5	61.5	19.4	23	24.0
SCREVEN	178	63.5	69.5	9.6	68	26.6
SEMINOLE	101	67.4	66.9	-0.7	43	28.5
SPALDING	662	66.2	61.6	-6.8	269	25.0
STEPHENS	238	45.9	51.4	11.9	73	15.8
STEWART	55	70.7	74.3	5.2	21	28.4
SUMTER	453	63.4	67.7	6.9	190	28.4
TALBOT	82	71.4	76.6	7.3	24	22.4
TALIAFERRO	31	79.2	70.5	-11.0	13	29.5
TATTNALL	271	58.6	63.5	8.2	104	24.4
TAYLOR	94	65.5	66.2	1.0	42	29.6
TELFAIR	121	62.4	68.0	8.9	50	28.1
TERRELL	172	77.5	75.1	-3.1	75	32.8
THOMAS	520	64.0	66.8	4.2	188	24.1
TIFT	534	63.0	65.0	3.3	223	27.2
TOOMBS	390	66.3	68.4	3.1	149	26.1
TOWNS	43	41.9	42.2	0.7	10	9.8
TREUTLEN	79	72.8	64.8	-11.1	29	23.8
TROUP	786	60.0	60.6	1.0	236	18.2
TURNER	113	71.2	67.7	-4.9	52	31.1
TWIGGS	116	63.3	70.7	11.8	47	28.7
UNION	102	51.2	48.1	-6.0	18	8.5
UPSON	306	63.3	66.1	4.4	104	22.5
WALKER	619	60.4	58.5	-3.2	202	19.1
WALTON	456	46.2	42.6	-7.7	152	14.2
WARE	425	63.0	65.6	4.1	147	22.7
WARREN	80	71.6	78.4	9.6	31	30.4
WASHINGTON	232	63.5	63.2	-0.4	91	24.8
WAYNE	260	60.9	59.2	-2.8	95	21.6
WEBSTER	34	59.5	72.3	21.5	7	14.9
WHEELER	48	58.9	64.9	10.1	15	20.3
WHITE	131	47.9	46.1	-3.7	35	12.3
WHITFIELD	1,175	58.0	63.7	9.7	328	17.8
WILCOX	95	62.7	69.9	11.4	31	22.8
WILKES	114	62.1	64.8	4.3	51	29.0
WILKINSON	143	58.8	66.8	13.7	45	21.0
WORTH	228	63.8	63.7	-0.2	74	20.7
GEORGIA	73,828	49.8	49.9	0.1	22,922	15.5

** Number too small to calculate a rate.* *** Rates are per 100 first births to Georgia mothers.*

† Risk factors are unmarried, less than high school education, and less than 20 years old.

Definition:

Abused and neglected children refers to confirmed incident reports of child (under age 18) abuse or neglect. Data are reported by child's place of residence. *Physical abuse* is any injury to a child, other than an injury sustained accidentally, caused by willful cruelty and applied trauma. *Sexual abuse* is the sexual exploitation of a child by an older person. *Neglect* includes physical neglect (lack of proper amounts of food, clothing, medical care, guidance, supervision, or general care) and emotional neglect (the parent shows the child no feelings).

GEORGIA RANK: *no ranking available*
NATIONAL

Georgia summary:

In 1997, there were 22,962 confirmed incidents of abuse or neglect. The vast majority of confirmed cases involved neglect (66 percent), followed by physical abuse (15 percent). Sexual abuse accounted for 9 percent of confirmed cases. The rate of confirmed incidents of child abuse and neglect decreased 21.7 percent between 1992 and 1997.

Childhood trauma is associated with lifelong health problems

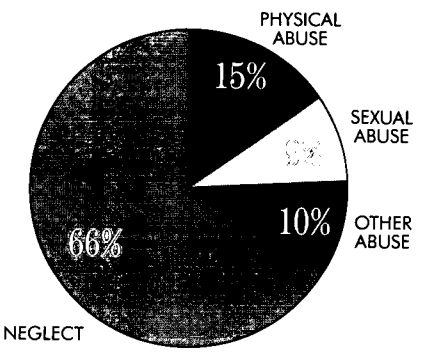
A study conducted in association with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that *childhood* abuse and household dysfunction (e.g., exposure to drug or alcohol abuse, mental illness, criminal behavior, or violent treatment of the mother) are related to *adult* health risk behaviors and diseases.[1] The study examined exposure to childhood physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and the presence of household dysfunction during childhood. Compared to persons who had none of these exposures, persons exposed to four or more of these types of trauma were more likely to engage in health risk behaviors as adults. Specifically, they were about:

- twice as likely to be current smokers
- seven times more likely to consider themselves alcoholics
- five times more likely to have ever used illicit drugs
- three times more likely to have had a high number of sexual intercourse partners (50 or more in a lifetime)
- three times more likely to have ever had a sexually transmitted disease
- twice as likely to suffer from severe obesity
- four times more likely to experience depressed mood
- twelve times more likely to have attempted suicide

These persons were also more likely to suffer from heart attacks, cancer, chronic lung disease, and liver disease as adults. In addition, they were more likely to have had a skeletal fracture (a measure for the risk of unintentional injury) and to rate their own health as poor or fair rather than good or very good.

The authors suggest that health risk behaviors (e.g., smoking, substance abuse, overeating, and certain sexual behaviors) are used chronically by persons coping with childhood trauma. These health risk behaviors, in turn, have a deleterious effect on a person's health as an adult.

Types of child abuse and neglect
GEORGIA 1997



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ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN

Confirmed incidents of child abuse and neglect, number and rate (per 1,000 children under age 18) for 1997.

COUNTY	ABUSE PHYSICAL	SEXUAL	OTHER†	NEGLECT	TOTAL	RATE
APPLING	5	5	8	50	68	14.6
ATKINSON	7	4	6	50	67	32.0
BACON	2	4	2	27	35	11.5
BAKER	5	1	4	27	37	33.9
BALDWIN	30	21	22	68	141	14.5
BANKS	7	4	4	33	48	15.0
BARROW	25	17	13	46	101	9.5
BARTOW	17	27	73	99	216	11.7
BEN HILL	16	31	10	63	120	23.1
BERRIEN	8	5	6	57	76	17.8
BIBB	53	32	35	311	431	10.6
BLECKLEY	8	7	3	38	56	19.5
BRANTLEY	9	5	15	45	74	18.8
BROOKS	11	5	10	83	109	22.1
BRYAN	8	8	6	30	52	7.1
BULLOCH	26	16	19	69	130	11.3
BURKE	18	8	6	39	71	9.5
BUTTS	11	7	18	75	111	24.9
CALHOUN	2	6	2	29	39	27.1
CAMDEN	25	4	21	49	99	7.2
CANDLER	8	14	3	21	46	19.2
CARROLL	30	17	18	207	272	12.7
CATOOSA	23	16	12	56	107	8.7
CHARLTON	8	8	5	20	41	14.6
CHATHAM	84	38	64	361	547	9.3
CHATTAHOOCHEE	3	1	0	15	19	4.2
CHATTOOGA	19	7	15	153	194	34.3
CHEROKEE	22	18	13	107	160	4.6
CLARKE	46	25	76	329	476	25.4
CLAY	0	0	0	2	2	*
CLAYTON	96	24	49	375	544	9.7
CLINCH	13	5	2	34	54	27.5
COBB	214	47	74	516	851	6.2
COFFEE	21	15	23	128	187	18.7
COLQUITT	14	44	23	218	299	26.9
COLUMBIA	26	11	28	82	147	5.6
COOK	3	8	7	69	87	21.1
COWETA	25	23	35	127	210	9.4
CRAWFORD	7	1	11	29	48	15.9
CRISP	31	9	4	79	123	20.1
DADE	10	0	3	27	40	11.0
DAWSON	2	3	2	10	17	4.6
DECATUR	34	12	43	200	289	37.0
DEKALB	147	65	62	538	812	5.8
DODGE	13	13	3	69	98	21.4
DOOLY	6	6	3	26	41	13.3
DOUGHERTY	59	27	18	285	389	13.6
DOUGLAS	7	16	3	85	111	4.6
EARLY	6	11	4	25	46	12.9
ECHOLS	3	6	0	15	24	34.1
EFFINGHAM	11	6	0	71	88	8.3
ELBERT	15	6	7	68	96	19.3
EMANUEL	15	18	7	45	85	13.5
EVANS	4	7	1	28	40	14.3
FANNIN	14	11	13	38	76	19.1
FAYETTE	19	8	9	43	79	3.3
FLOYD	17	31	11	172	231	11.7
FORSYTH	24	8	13	52	97	5.1
FRANKLIN	12	22	12	36	82	19.3
FULTON	430	157	253	1,897	2,737	15.8
GILMER	5	7	6	55	73	16.9
GLASCOCK	3	4	1	19	27	48.4
GLYNN	49	6	19	178	252	14.9
GORDON	27	36	9	81	153	14.5
GRADY	19	22	1	46	88	14.8
GREENE	5	3	6	64	78	19.4
GWINNETT	110	20	26	286	442	3.2
HABERSHAM	16	1	2	33	52	7.1
HALL	53	40	62	460	615	20.8
HANCOCK	5	2	1	9	17	6.2
HARALSON	15	9	6	33	63	10.2
HARRIS	13	4	19	34	70	12.9
HART	4	8	18	86	116	22.3
HEARD	5	3	1	16	25	9.1
HENRY	29	10	49	112	200	7.6
HOUSTON	84	109	35	258	486	16.9
IRWIN	27	10	5	74	116	46.4
JACKSON	6	2	11	47	66	7.0
JASPER	4	4	10	28	46	17.0
JEFF DAVIS	3	0	1	23	27	7.9
JEFFERSON	12	8	7	61	88	16.7
JENKINS	3	11	1	72	87	35.8
JOHNSON	12	12	6	33	63	26.2
JONES	8	7	6	83	104	17.1
LAMAR	6	4	14	48	72	19.2
LANIER	8	8	0	44	60	30.7
LAURENS	34	38	19	121	212	17.6
LEE	9	12	7	30	58	8.4
LIBERTY	73	29	34	286	422	22.3
LINCOLN	1	2	7	33	43	20.4
LONG	15	12	8	41	76	29.6
LOWNDES	57	41	36	246	380	16.3
LUMPKIN	16	7	0	68	91	20.9
MACON	25	9	5	11	50	12.2
MADISON	12	15	12	69	108	17.1
MARION	4	3	7	38	52	28.5
MCDUFFIE	18	10	17	74	119	19.2
MCINTOSH	3	3	15	48	69	25.5
MERIWETHER	12	7	15	80	114	17.4
MILLER	10	5	13	16	44	26.0
MITCHELL	8	10	7	89	114	17.4
MONROE	8	4	8	51	71	14.1
MONTGOMERY	6	2	1	28	37	18.7
MORGAN	6	1	2	22	31	7.9
MURRAY	8	13	4	64	89	10.0
MUSCOGEE	79	31	22	473	605	12.4
NEWTON	37	31	21	186	275	18.3
OCONEE	5	2	4	20	31	4.8
OGLETHORPE	4	2	3	18	27	9.5
PAULDING	28	18	6	78	130	6.6
PEACH	16	5	2	43	66	10.2
PICKENS	12	7	2	33	54	12.0
PIERCE	4	1	6	27	38	9.0
PIKE	13	2	7	48	70	21.7
POLK	17	18	4	48	87	9.4
PULASKI	4	3	0	30	37	16.9
PUTNAM	7	12	7	30	56	13.1
QUITMAN	2	0	1	8	11	17.6
RABUN	6	13	12	40	71	25.8
RANDOLPH	4	3	1	23	31	13.5
RICHMOND	73	16	20	179	288	5.6
ROCKDALE	36	5	7	85	133	7.2
SCHLEY	1	9	0	43	53	49.1
SCREVEN	7	2	0	50	59	14.3
SEMINOLE	7	1	0	22	30	11.7
SPALDING	56	42	32	402	532	33.9
STEPHENS	5	3	19	18	45	7.7
STEWART	5	4	0	16	25	17.2
SUMTER	21	32	5	89	147	16.0
TALBOT	5	5	5	4	19	10.5
TALIAFERRO	2	0	0	8	10	20.2
TATTNALL	12	18	31	101	162	35.0
TAYLOR	2	8	4	14	28	12.5
TELFAIR	7	7	10	41	65	20.9
TERRELL	8	4	0	24	36	11.1
THOMAS	19	21	21	81	142	11.9
TIFT	27	18	34	116	195	18.5
TOOMBS	15	20	21	164	220	29.2
TOWNS	2	2	0	4	8	5.9
TREUTLEN	5	1	1	24	31	18.7
TROUP	33	25	14	180	252	15.7
TURNER	10	6	1	29	46	16.2
TWIGGS	7	3	11	44	65	21.9
UNION	4	6	0	17	27	8.2
UPSON	6	4	7	39	56	8.3
WALKER	20	13	7	77	117	7.6
WALTON	12	8	4	74	98	7.0
WARE	21	9	18	68	116	12.4
WARREN	3	5	8	21	37	22.0
WASHINGTON	19	13	15	45	92	16.0
WAYNE	34	8	11	51	104	14.6
WEBSTER	4	0	0	3	7	11.7
WHEELER	2	0	0	25	27	19.3
WHITE	1	3	5	32	41	11.1
WHITFIELD	33	27	9	155	224	10.7
WILCOX	7	1	0	21	29	14.3
WILKES	14	8	0	40	62	22.9
WILKINSON	12	2	3	7	24	7.7
WORTH	12	15	18	37	82	12.3
GEORGIA	3,497	2,076	2,190	15,199	22,962	11.7

** Number too small to calculate a rate.* *† Other includes "Emotional Abuse" and "Other".*

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GEORGIA KIDS COUNT

special report on early brain development

- Targeted Early Interventions
- Public Spending on Georgia Children
- Quality Early Care and Education Programs
- Parenting
- Child Health

SPECIAL REPORT: IMPLICATIONS OF THE LATEST FINDINGS IN EARLY BRAIN DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

Recent advances in technology are giving scientists new, more powerful ways of studying the brain as it develops. As a result, we are beginning to understand through neurochemistry, physiology, and neuroanatomy a fact that every parent observes: a child's intellectual, emotional, social, and moral development is shaped in important ways during his or her early childhood. A positive early childhood does not guarantee that all problems will be averted later in life. However, researchers are discovering how to make a beneficial, long-lasting impact on the brain, and, consequently, the future of a child. This *Georgia KIDS COUNT Special Report* will discuss some implications of recent brain development research for public policy in Georgia.

Of Georgia's nearly two million children, more than 664,000 (over 33 percent) are currently under age six.[1]

Targeted early interventions are investment opportunities that "pay off"

Targeted early interventions for at-risk populations can provide significant benefits to children and families as well as result in savings in the form of decreased government expenditures.[2] "Targeted early interventions" are programs designed to overcome limitations often found in the environments of disadvantaged children during their first years of life. Although there is no age beyond which intervention is not effective, intervention needs to occur as early and as intensively as possible if children are to be given the best chance possible at a promising future.

AN EXAMPLE: BENEFITS OF THE HIGH/SCOPE PERRY PRESCHOOL PROJECT

Potential benefits of targeted early interventions are illustrated by research conducted on participants of the High/Scope Perry Preschool Project in Ypsilanti, Michigan.[3] In the mid-1960s, 123 African American children (ages three and four) born into poverty and at high risk of school failure were randomly divided into two groups. The first group attended a preschool program five days per week for 2 ½ hours per day. The program was comprehensive, including education, and health and family support services. The second group received no preschool program. A follow-up assessment was performed when the original study participants were age 27 (this follow-up included 95% of the original participants). The study found that benefits of the program for *individuals* included reduced criminal activity, improved economic well-being, higher educational achievement, and fewer out-of-wedlock births (see Figure 1). The program also benefited the *government* through long-term savings because participants required lower public expenditures later in life. As a result of the High/Scope Perry Preschool Project, participants required fewer welfare payments and educational services, generated higher tax revenues, and required less spending on prisons and law enforcement (see Figure 2).

Research on the sequence and timing of brain development can contribute significantly to the efforts of those responsible for the well being of Georgia's children — including parents, teachers, health care providers, and policy makers. These new insights into the brain's early development and functioning also allow for the design of more effective programs for preventing neurological impairments.

Peter R. MacLeish, Ph.D., Director, Neuroscience Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine

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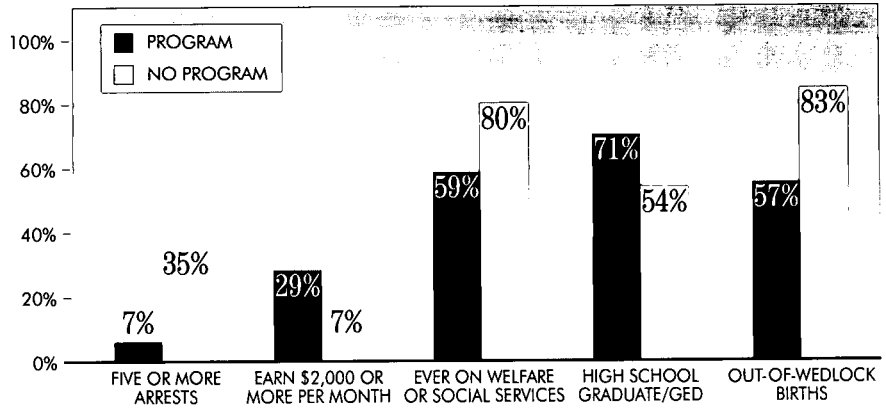
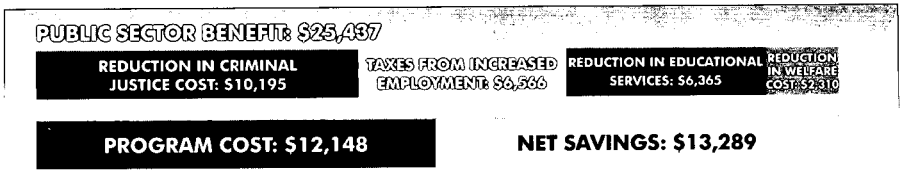
The High/Scope Perry Preschool Project:

FIGURE 1: BENEFITS OF EARLY INTERVENTION FOR PARTICIPANTS



SOURCE: High/Scope Educational Research Foundation.

FIGURE 2: PUBLIC SECTOR BENEFITS OF EARLY INTERVENTION
PER FAMILY, IN 1996 DOLLARS



SOURCE: Karoly, Lynn A. et al.; "Investing In Our Children" RAND.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT IN GEORGIA

One out of every ten school-age students (K-12) enrolled in Georgia's public school system was enrolled in a special education program during the 1996-97 school year. The majority of special education enrollment (classified by primary disability) was due to specific learning disabilities and speech/language impairment (see table). Research shows that the majority of children with learning disabilities have their primary deficit in basic reading skills, and the majority of children with reading disabilities have relatively mild cases.[4] However, even mild deficits in reading proficiency increase the likelihood of academic trouble. The longer this problem goes without identification and intervention, the more difficult the task of remediation and the lower the rate of success. Two percent of Georgia's Pre-Kindergarten special education students and 13 percent of K-3 special education students were classified as learning disabled compared to 39 percent of special education students in grades 4 through 12. Early diagnosis and treatment is essential if a child is to be "ready" for school.

Missed investment opportunities

A gap exists between what we already know about early brain development and how we invest in Georgia children. This gap has consequences that affect every child's potential to grow up to become a productive adult and citizen. Figure 3 compares the course of brain growth to the cumulative amount of public spending on Georgia children from zero to age 18. The solid line plots

Special education enrollment

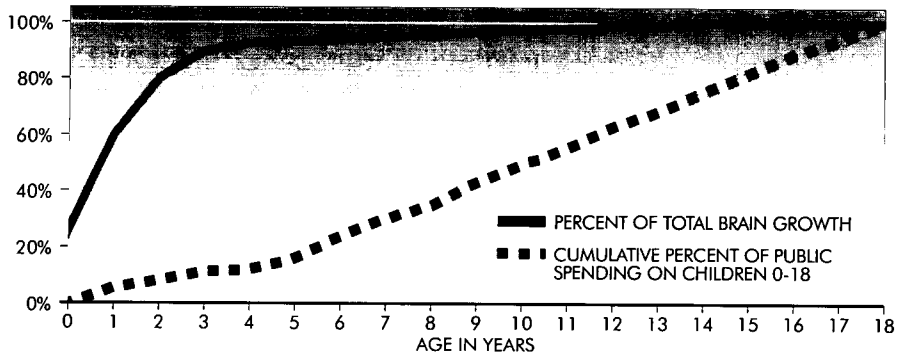
GEORGIA PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Percent of student population enrolled in special education, December 1996	Pre-Kindergarten	29%
	School-Age (K-12)	10%
Pre-kindergarten special education enrollment by primary disability, FY 1998	Specific Learning Disability	2%
	Speech/Language Problem	47%
K-3 special education enrollment by primary disability, FY 1998	Specific Learning Disability	13%
	Speech/Language Problem	53%
Grades 4-12 special education enrollment by primary disability, FY 1998	Specific Learning Disability	39%
	Speech/Language Problem	9%

SOURCE: Georgia Department of Education

brain growth, the result of changes in cell size and in the complexity of connections between brain cells. Although the highest level of plasticity and responsiveness to environmental influences occurs before age five, the brain continues to be influenced by the environment even during adulthood. The dotted line shows the cumulative percent of total federal and state spending on Georgia children at each age (based on data for FY 1994 through 1996). Currently, per child public expenditures (spending on early childhood, welfare, health, and nutrition programs) for children ages zero to five is $2,434 per year. Per child public expenditures for children ages six through 18 in Georgia is $5,513 per year. The higher average expenditures for older children is largely the result of spending on public schools; in addition, spending on older children includes funding for juvenile justice, job training, and residential care programs.

Figure 3: Brain growth versus Georgia public expenditures on children age 0-18



SOURCE: Georgians For Children with assistance from the National Association of Child Advocates

We as a state and as a nation need to finance quality early childhood programs, support for parents, and health care for children. There is plenty of good research to show that this is a cost-effective way to spend money.

Josephine V. Brown, Ph.D., Associate Research Professor of Psychology, Georgia State University

Additional funding needs to be allocated for Georgia's youngest children without sacrificing funding for our older children. Failing to intervene in the lives of children under age five will cause us to miss windows of opportunity that are more difficult to "reopen" later. At the same time, Georgia cannot abandon its school-age children and adolescents. Treatment and remediation services for older youth in need are critical to compensate for missed opportunities and to promote healthy functioning later in life. Education and training are also important for parents and other adults, providing them with the ability to gain self-sufficiency through jobs that provide more than poverty level wages.

Quality early care and education programs

Child care is a concern for most Georgia parents. From 1993 to 1997, an average of 67 percent of Georgia's preschool-age children (children under age six) lived with working parents.[5] The majority of Georgia mothers are going to work before their children are old enough to go to school.[6] Brain development occurs around the clock—not just after parents get home from work or school. When parents are not physically with their children, child care providers become the caregivers. This is one reason why quality early child care and education programs are so important. Quality early child care programs share several key characteristics.

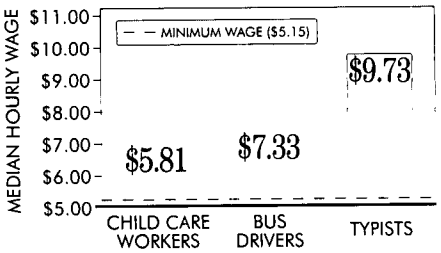
COMPETITIVE COMPENSATION AND STAFF RETENTION

Recruiting and retaining quality child care staff requires competitive compensation. Experienced child care providers must often find other jobs because of inadequate benefits and low wages. A national survey of child care staff reported that only two-fifths of child care staff received health coverage, and one out of five had a retirement plan.[7] Currently, child care providers are among the lowest-paid in Georgia's labor market (see Figure 4).[8]

Furthermore, low wages are linked to high turnover rates among child care providers. Children in centers with high staff turnover spend less time engaged in social activities with peers and have less mastery of language.[9] The annual turnover rate for U.S. child care workers is nearly three times the rate reported for the average U.S. company.[10] In Georgia in 1997, one out of five (20 percent) child care teachers and three out of ten (29 percent) assistant teachers left their jobs.[11]

Figure 4: Child care workers hourly wages

COMPARED TO OTHER OCCUPATIONS, GEORGIA 1996



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

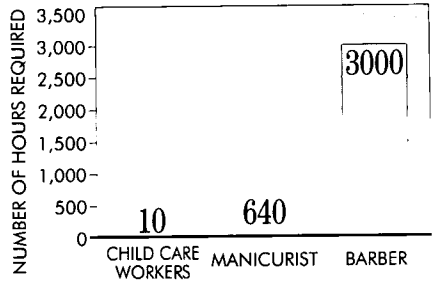
Better outcomes for Georgia children are obtained when early child care providers receive more initial and ongoing training. Adequately teaching and caring for a group of other people's young children can be a very different skill from raising one's own. Even someone who is "naturally" reliable and caring needs additional skills to adequately teach and protect a group of children. In Georgia, employees who provide direct care to children are required to have ten hours of training or instruction on child care issues (see Figure 5).[12]

A study by the Harvard Family Research Project concluded that training for child care providers is most effective when providers:[13]

- earn credentials that are linked to compensation or career advancement.
- learn about child and family development as well as work-related management and child care policies.
- form support networks and engage in ongoing learning from their peers.
- progress from basic to more advanced knowledge and skills and become mentors to others.

Figure 5: Hours of training required

BY GEORGIA, 1998



SOURCES: Administrative Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia, Georgia State Board of Cosmetology, Georgia State Board of Barbers

STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION

The quality of child care is affected by government regulations. Like water safety standards and food and drug standards, uniform high standards for child care and development are needed. When states adopt higher regulatory standards, children have higher quality early care and education.[14] The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) established a voluntary accreditation system in response to concern about the quality of child care. Research demonstrates that NAEYC-accredited programs are more likely to have higher overall quality ratings, better adult-child ratios, and improved teacher sensitivity scores than non-accredited programs.[15] Although many Georgia parents want their children to get the quality care provided by NAEYC-accredited programs, such programs are scarce in Georgia. In 1998, only about 137 (five percent) of Georgia's 2,759 licensed child care centers were accredited by the NAEYC.[16]

LOW STAFF-TO-CHILD RATIOS

Georgia allows a single caregiver in a center to care for up to eight 18 month-old toddlers.[17] However, early childhood experts recommend no more than three to five children of this age per adult.[18] It is difficult to imagine how any single provider —no matter how highly trained— could adequately feed, diaper, nurture, play with, and care for eight active 18 month-old children.

Parenting

Georgia parents have one of the most important and demanding jobs in the state: raising our next generation of leaders, workers, and citizens. Parents often provide a baby's first social interactions and contacts with language; they are a baby's first and most influential teacher. Children who are successful despite many challenges typically have at least one stable, supportive relationship with an adult (usually a parent, other relative, or teacher) beginning early in their lives.[19]

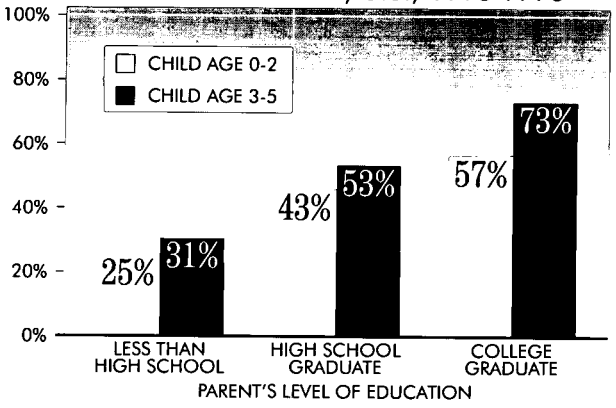
When parents speak to their babies, they are teaching the basics of language and communication. The extent to which a parent talks to an infant is directly related to that infant's language skills later in childhood.[20] The effect of parent speaking holds even when parents attach long vowel sounds such as /ē/ and /o͞o/ to words to form words such as "cutie" or "boo boo" (referred to as "Parentese"). Children's brains use this stimulation to begin to assemble the pieces of language. One study found that, at 20 months, infants of mothers who often spoke to them knew an average of 131 more words compared to infants of mothers who did not; at 24 months, the gap became even wider.[21]

Unfortunately, television does not stimulate babies' brains in the same way that attention from a responsive human being does.[22] At a very early age, children focus their attention on people and begin to tune out background noise, including television.

Reading regularly to young children is one of the most important activities parents can do with their children to make them ready for school. Reading allows a parent to be a child's first teacher and instills a positive attitude toward books and reading. Reading to children also helps children associate oral language with printed text and builds their vocabularies and background knowledge about the world. Unfortunately, only 45 percent of U.S. children under age three and only 56 percent of U.S. children age three to five were read to daily during 1995-1996.[23] The likelihood of reporting daily reading to their preschoolers increased with parents' educational attainment (see Figure 6).

Figure 6: Percentage of children whose parents read to them every day

BY AGE OF CHILD, U.S., 1995-1996



NOTE: Data for two-parent families are based on the parent with the highest level of education.

SOURCE: National Education Goals Panel; "Special Early Childhood Report 1997"

Mothers and fathers are increasingly pressed for time. In a recent survey of U.S. parents of babies and toddlers, half indicated that they end most days feeling that they spent less time than they wanted to with their child.[24]

Child health

Physical health is necessary for a baby's proper growth and development. During the first years of life, children need to receive regular health care to ensure normal development. At a minimum, children need basic nutrition, immunizations, and regular checkups.

The Georgia chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that every Georgia child should:

- *Have sound nutrition to promote maximum growth and good general health*
- *Have a "medical home" established at birth, such that a comprehensive, ongoing, preventive health care program can be implemented with continuity of care.*
- *Have immunizations to prevent infectious diseases according to nationally recommended schedules, in concert with well-child evaluations at his or her "medical home" with a schedule as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.*

NUTRITION

Poor nutrition during the first years of a child's life undermines a child's cognitive development and learning.[25] When children are undernourished, their activity level decreases. This apathy affects their social interactions, exploration efforts, and overall cognitive functioning. Furthermore, inadequate intake of specific nutrients can have other effects. For instance, a deficiency in iron can make it more difficult for a child to concentrate. Nutrition is an important concern for pregnant women as well. A deficiency in folic acid during pregnancy can lead to serious abnormalities in development of the baby's brain and nervous system. Also, undernourishment during pregnancy increases the risk of infant death and low birth weight.[26] In addition to being the leading cause of death for U.S. infants, low birth weight contributes to health and developmental problems such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, and blindness.[27]

The Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) supplies vouchers for basic foods (e.g., milk, cheese, cereal, dried beans, peanut butter, and fruit juices) to low income pregnant women, new mothers, and children up to age five. WIC staff also provide nutrition education and breast feeding support, identify affordable prenatal care, and encourage eligible clients to seek additional services (e.g., Medicaid, food stamps, and immunizations). Georgia's WIC program is the eighth largest in the nation and the second largest in the Southeast.[28] This program reaches over two-thirds of eligible women and children in Georgia. Compared to those who do not, low income women in Georgia who receive both WIC and Medicaid have lower infant mortality rates, are more likely to get prenatal care early in their pregnancy, and are more likely to seek immunizations for their children. A national study found that, for each federal dollar invested in WIC, $2.89 is saved over the first year of an infant's life; over 18 years, WIC saves $3.50 for every federal dollar spent.[29]

HEALTH INSURANCE

Uninsured children are at risk of preventable illness. The majority of uninsured children with asthma and one in three uninsured children with recurring ear infections never see a doctor during the year.[30] In addition, a Pennsylvania study found that nearly 1 in 5 uninsured children have untreated vision

problems; this statistic likely generalizes to Georgia's uninsured children as well.[31] Frequent illnesses, untreated vision or hearing problems, and other learning disorders affect performance in school and other childhood activities.

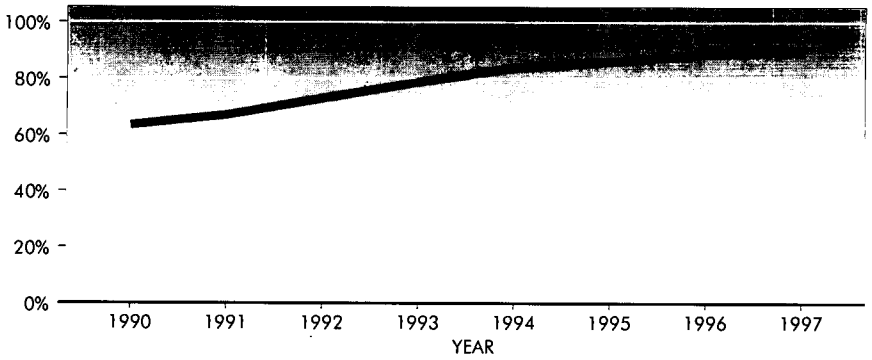
Georgia ranks among the top ten states with the highest number of uninsured children. Current estimates set the number of children without healthcare coverage at about 366,000.[32]

Investing in children's health coverage saves taxpayer dollars. One in four uninsured children either uses the hospital emergency room as a regular source of health care or has no regular source of care.[33] Florida experienced savings of $13 million in 1996 by helping parents buy coverage for children. More children received health care in doctors' offices, and emergency room visits dropped by 70% in areas of the state served by the new program.[34]

IMMUNIZATIONS

Immunization status of Georgia's two year-olds is an indicator of medical care utilization and serves as a proxy measure of child health. Children who are vaccinated against specific infectious diseases are not susceptible to those diseases. Every dollar spent on childhood immunizations saves ten dollars in later medical costs.[35] In 1997, 90 percent of all two year-olds who used public clinics were adequately immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, influenza, polio, hepatitis B, and varicella (see Figure 7). The flip side is that one in ten of all two year-olds was not.

Figure 7: Percent of Georgia two year-olds in public clinics with full schedule of immunizations



SOURCE: Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health, Immunization Program

Early brain development internet resource list

Better Brains for Babies: Maximizing Georgia's Brain Power	www.gsu.edu/bbb
Carnegie Corporation of New York Starting Points: Meeting the Needs of Our Youngest Children (publication)	www.carnegie.org
Families and Work Institute Rethinking the Brain (publication)	www.familiesandwork.org
I Am Your Child Campaign	www.iamyourchild.org
Zero To Three	www.zerotothree.org

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appendices

Georgia Totals, by Year and Race

		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES																			
TOTAL	NUMBER OF LOW BIRTHWEIGHT	7,997	7,662	7,604	7,519	7,555	7,774	7,969	8,455	8,884	9,222	9,768	9,481	9,502	9,663	9,576	9,835	9,736	10,393
	NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS	92,194	89,805	90,352	90,068	92,258	96,291	98,175	102,486	105,853	110,235	112,573	110,271	111,095	110,489	110,985	112,242	113,982	118,167
	RATE (PER 100 LIVE BIRTHS)	8.7	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.4	8.4	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.8	8.5	8.8
WHITE	NUMBER OF LOW BIRTHWEIGHT	3,743	3,452	3,476	3,490	3,541	3,834	3,809	4,094	4,082	4,054	4,355	4,186	4,104	4,306	4,406	4,631	4,658	4,968
	NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS	58,076	56,746	57,471	57,862	59,644	62,452	63,474	66,201	67,191	69,319	70,496	68,242	68,738	68,569	69,549	71,188	72,723	75,537
	RATE (PER 100 LIVE BIRTHS)	6.4	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.1	5.8	6.2	6.1	6.0	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.6
BLACK	NUMBER OF LOW BIRTHWEIGHT	4,203	4,139	4,076	3,958	3,947	3,869	4,093	4,281	4,698	5,087	5,291	5,171	5,268	5,205	5,014	5,001	4,880	5,164
	NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS	33,288	32,192	31,963	31,258	31,651	32,769	33,547	34,903	37,167	39,378	40,467	40,248	40,332	39,790	39,003	38,140	38,276	39,723
	RATE (PER 100 LIVE BIRTHS)	12.6	12.9	12.8	12.7	12.5	11.8	12.2	12.3	12.6	12.9	13.1	12.8	13.1	13.1	12.9	13.1	12.7	13.0
INFANT MORTALITY																			
TOTAL	NUMBER OF DEATHS	1,456	1,351	1,205	1,232	1,241	1,222	1,225	1,306	1,327	1,357	1,391	1,252	1,139	1,149	1,133	1,067	1,061	1,021
	NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS	92,194	89,805	90,352	90,068	92,258	96,291	98,175	102,486	105,853	110,235	112,573	110,271	111,095	110,489	110,985	112,242	113,982	118,167
	RATE (PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS)	15.8	15.0	13.3	13.7	13.5	12.7	12.5	12.7	12.5	12.3	12.4	11.4	10.3	10.4	10.2	9.5	9.3	8.6
WHITE	NUMBER OF DEATHS	662	614	553	575	605	586	590	678	606	624	633	506	490	495	492	470	455	467
	NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS	58,076	56,746	57,471	57,862	59,644	62,452	63,474	66,201	67,191	69,319	70,496	68,242	68,738	68,569	69,549	71,188	72,723	75,537
	RATE (PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS)	11.4	10.8	9.6	9.9	10.1	9.4	9.3	10.2	9.0	9.0	9.0	7.4	7.1	7.2	7.1	6.6	6.3	6.2
BLACK	NUMBER OF DEATHS	789	733	647	650	629	632	627	620	715	722	744	737	637	648	627	585	579	546
	NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS	33,288	32,192	31,963	31,258	31,651	32,769	33,547	34,903	37,167	39,378	40,467	40,248	40,332	39,790	39,003	38,140	38,276	39,723
	RATE (PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS)	23.7	22.8	20.2	20.8	19.9	19.3	18.7	17.8	19.2	18.3	18.4	18.3	15.8	16.3	16.1	15.3	15.1	13.7
CHILD DEATHS																			
TOTAL	NUMBER OF DEATHS	570	548	495	497	479	478	528	530	518	499	486	492	441	490	476	488	462	446
	POPULATION AGE 1-14	1,242,167	1,253,794	1,265,421	1,277,049	1,288,676	1,300,303	1,311,930	1,323,557	1,335,185	1,346,812	1,358,439	1,396,823	1,427,865	1,460,905	1,483,414	1,507,319	1,532,815	1,557,439
	RATE (PER 100,000 AGE 1-14)	45.9	43.7	39.1	38.9	37.2	36.8	40.2	40.0	38.8	37.1	35.8	35.2	30.9	33.5	32.1	32.4	30.1	28.6
WHITE	NUMBER OF DEATHS	343	304	304	289	270	289	304	306	289	268	278	281	239	260	228	268	225	235
	POPULATION AGE 1-14	823,257	828,014	832,771	837,528	842,285	847,043	851,800	856,557	861,314	866,071	870,828	899,035	915,795	932,512	943,359	957,511	972,111	986,055
	RATE (PER 100,000 AGE 1-14)	41.7	36.7	36.5	34.5	32.1	34.1	35.7	35.7	33.6	30.9	31.9	31.3	26.1	27.9	24.2	28.0	23.1	23.8
BLACK	NUMBER OF DEATHS	223	243	186	206	206	184	216	222	224	225	202	210	195	225	242	215	227	205
	POPULATION AGE 1-14	405,943	411,013	416,083	421,153	426,223	431,293	436,362	441,432	446,502	451,572	456,642	475,301	487,495	501,960	511,349	519,030	528,162	536,962
	RATE (PER 100,000 AGE 1-14)	54.9	59.1	44.7	48.9	48.3	42.7	49.5	50.3	50.2	49.8	44.2	44.2	40.0	44.8	47.3	41.4	43.0	38.2
TEEN DEATHS BY ACCIDENT, HOMICIDE, AND SUICIDE																			
TOTAL	NUMBER OF DEATHS	454	440	350	324	377	361	376	400	427	417	371	373	353	371	371	387	453	357
	POPULATION AGE 15-19	530,773	527,411	524,049	520,687	517,325	513,963	510,600	507,238	503,876	500,514	497,152	482,423	481,186	487,329	498,730	514,273	532,522	548,390
	RATE (PER 100,000 AGE 15-19)	85.5	83.4	66.8	62.2	72.9	70.2	73.6	78.9	84.7	83.3	74.6	77.3	73.4	76.1	74.4	75.3	85.1	65.1
WHITE	NUMBER OF DEATHS	372	334	263	256	297	290	287	305	308	297	262	233	210	224	219	230	283	228
	POPULATION AGE 15-19	357,566	354,510	351,454	348,398	345,342	342,286	339,230	336,174	333,118	330,062	327,006	315,693	312,268	314,393	319,358	327,254	337,146	345,769
	RATE (PER 100,000 AGE 15-19)	104.0	94.2	74.8	73.5	86.0	84.7	84.6	90.7	92.5	90.0	80.1	73.8	67.2	71.2	68.6	70.3	83.9	65.9
BLACK	NUMBER OF DEATHS	79	105	85	67	80	70	88	95	116	118	106	139	141	144	151	153	163	129
	POPULATION AGE 15-19	167,724	166,779	165,835	164,890	163,945	163,001	162,056	161,111	160,166	159,222	158,277	158,650	160,342	163,829	169,689	176,734	184,297	190,740
	RATE (PER 100,000 AGE 15-19)	47.1	63.0	51.3	40.6	48.8	42.9	54.3	59.0	72.4	74.1	67.0	87.6	87.9	87.9	89.0	86.6	88.4	67.6
BIRTHS TO TEENS																			
TOTAL	NUMBER OF BIRTHS TO TEENS	7,509	6,939	6,510	6,224	6,113	6,220	6,362	6,549	6,561	6,922	6,869	6,833	6,637	6,852	7,094	7,336	7,108	7,071
	FEMALE POPULATION AGE 15-17	153,038	151,433	149,828	148,223	146,618	145,014	143,409	141,804	140,199	138,594	136,989	132,608	132,138	133,774	136,844	141,224	146,312	150,786
	RATE (PER 1,000 AGE 15-17)	49.1	45.8	43.4	42.0	41.7	42.9	44.4	46.2	46.8	49.9	50.1	51.5	50.2	51.2	51.8	51.9	48.6	46.9
WHITE	NUMBER OF BIRTHS TO TEENS	3,267	3,120	2,815	2,843	2,767	2,924	2,997	3,066	2,939	3,052	2,982	2,915	2,821	2,927	2,995	3,326	3,262	3,145
	FEMALE POPULATION AGE 15-17	102,135	100,806	99,476	98,147	96,817	95,488	94,159	92,829	91,500	90,170	88,841	85,238	84,238	84,734	85,939	88,084	90,782	93,268
	RATE (PER 1,000 AGE 15-17)	32.0	31.0	28.3	29.0	28.6	30.6	31.8	33.0	32.1	33.8	33.6	34.2	33.5	34.5	34.9	37.8	35.9	33.7
BLACK	NUMBER OF BIRTHS TO TEENS	4,225	3,810	3,686	3,371	3,338	3,285	3,346	3,463	3,595	3,856	3,869	3,888	3,789	3,890	4,049	3,956	3,793	3,869
	FEMALE POPULATION AGE 15-17	49,751	49,300	48,850	48,399	47,948	47,498	47,047	46,596	46,145	45,695	45,244	45,275	45,697	46,710	48,472	50,579	52,784	54,572
	RATE (PER 1,000 AGE 15-17)	84.9	77.3	75.5	69.7	69.6	69.2	71.1	74.3	77.9	84.4	85.5	85.9	82.9	83.3	83.5	78.2	71.9	70.9

APPENDICES - INDICATOR TREND DATA

Criteria Totals, by Year and Race

		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
JUVENILE ARRESTS																			
TOTAL	NUMBER OF ARRESTS TO JUVENILES										24,125	21,636	34,280	40,219	43,753	50,018	49,902	49,871	49,124
	POPULATION AGE 10-17										751,471	747,816	755,624	768,486	785,410	797,539	812,418	830,457	847,749
	RATIO (PER 100 YOUTHS AGE 10-17)										3.2	2.9	4.5	5.2	5.6	6.3	6.1	6.0	5.8
WHITE	NUMBER OF ARRESTS TO JUVENILES										8,650	6,764	13,686	15,914	16,959	19,742	19,974	21,155	19,531
	POPULATION AGE 10-17										486,337	481,896	486,684	492,076	500,883	506,902	515,752	525,754	534,854
	RATIO (PER 100 YOUTHS AGE 10-17)										1.8	1.4	2.8	3.2	3.4	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.7
BLACK	NUMBER OF ARRESTS TO JUVENILES										15,447	14,793	20,447	24,149	26,492	29,999	29,573	28,334	29,206
	POPULATION AGE 10-17										250,138	249,975	257,130	263,552	270,700	275,901	281,194	288,403	295,688
	RATIO (PER 100 YOUTHS AGE 10-17)										6.2	5.9	8.0	9.2	9.8	10.9	10.5	9.8	9.9
FAMILIES STARTING AT RISK OF POVERTY																			
TOTAL	NUMBER*												22,482	22,203	23,132	23,849	24,508	24,427	24,893
	NUMBER OF FIRST BIRTHS												45,549	45,411	46,137	47,247	48,985	48,782	50,202
	RATE (PER 100 FIRST BIRTHS)												49.4	48.9	50.1	50.5	50.0	50.1	49.6
WHITE	NUMBER*												10,953	10,688	11,151	11,419	11,892	12,121	12,280
	NUMBER OF FIRST BIRTHS												29,983	29,764	29,993	30,601	31,811	31,914	32,853
	RATE (PER 100 FIRST BIRTHS)												36.5	35.9	37.2	37.3	37.4	38.0	37.4
BLACK	NUMBER*												11,347	11,285	11,713	12,128	12,235	11,953	12,288
	NUMBER OF FIRST BIRTHS												14,795	14,768	15,205	15,543	15,833	15,504	15,938
	RATE (PER 100 FIRST BIRTHS)												76.7	76.4	77.0	78.0	77.3	77.1	77.1
CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT INCIDENTS																			
TOTAL	NUMBER OF CONFIRMED INCIDENTS													26,758	27,767	28,655	26,362	24,336	22,962
	POPULATION AGES 0 TO 17													1,794,263	1,832,787	1,862,679	1,896,201	1,932,895	1,967,369
	RATE (PER 1,000 AGE 0-17)													14.9	15.2	15.4	13.9	12.6	11.7
WHITE	NUMBER OF CONFIRMED INCIDENTS															13,121	12,050	10,885	9,490
	POPULATION AGES 0 TO 17															1,183,744	1,203,072	1,224,146	1,243,902
	RATE (PER 1,000 AGE 0-17)															11.1	10.0	8.9	7.6
BLACK	NUMBER OF CONFIRMED INCIDENTS															13,440	12,051	10,930	9,646
	POPULATION AGES 0 TO 17															643,854	655,599	669,035	681,480
	RATE (PER 1,000 AGE 0-17)															20.9	18.4	16.3	14.2
HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS																			
TOTAL	NUMBER																	29,141	29,278
	PUBLIC H.S. ENROLLMENT																	345,419	355,911
	RATE (PER 100 ENROLLED)																	8.4	8.2
WHITE	NUMBER																	15,390	14,904
	PUBLIC H.S. ENROLLMENT																	201,601	206,239
	RATE (PER 100 ENROLLED)																	7.6	7.2
BLACK	NUMBER																	12,590	13,073
	PUBLIC H.S. ENROLLMENT																	130,072	134,147
	RATE (PER 100 ENROLLED)																	9.7	9.7
ITBS SCORES																			
	READING-3RD GRADE SCORE														52	51	51	51	52
	MATH-3RD GRADE SCORE														50	52	53	59	59
	READING-5TH GRADE SCORE														53	53	53	53	52
	MATH-5TH GRADE SCORE														53	53	55	56	57
	READING-8TH GRADE SCORE														52	52	53	48	48
	MATH-8TH GRADE SCORE														52	52	52	53	54

* NUMBER OF FIRST BIRTHS WITH AT LEAST ONE RISK FACTOR (UNMARRIED, LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION, OR LESS THAN 20 YEARS OLD).

Methodology

The *1998-99 Georgia KIDS COUNT Factbook* provides data on ten indicators of child well-being. Data on number of events, rate, and change over time are presented for eight of the indicators. The Child Abuse and Neglect indicator presents county-level data from 1997 only; therefore, no percent change was calculated. The Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) indicator provides percentile ranks based on scores, and its interpretation is explained under the ITBS Scores Methodology.

NUMBER

The total number of events in each county for a time period is given for most indicators. For most indicators, the time period is 1995 through 1997 combined. High School Drop-outs and Child Abuse & Neglect use data from 1997 only. ITBS Scores refer to a score, not a number.

RATE OR RATIO

A rate is calculated by dividing the number of events of interest by the number of persons that are "eligible" for the event. (The low birth weight rate is the number of low birth weight births over a given time period divided by the total number of births during that same period.)

In most cases, rates are calculated for the time periods 1992 through 1994 combined and 1995 through 1997 combined. Rates are not calculated when the numerator is less than five, because the rate would be unreliable. For High School Dropouts, rates are calculated for 1996 and for 1997. For Child Abuse and Neglect, rates are calculated for 1997 only. Rates cannot be calculated for ITBS Scores. The Juvenile Arrests indicator uses a ratio instead of a rate because county of arrest, not county of residence, is counted in the numerator. The denominator is the total number of juveniles residing in that county. Data is not available regarding how many youths are "eligible" to be arrested in a specific county, nor is information available regarding the county of residence for arrested youth.

PERCENT CHANGE

The percent change for most indicators is calculated as 100 times the rate for 1995-97 minus the rate for 1992-94, all divided by the 1992-94 rate. Thus this measure refers to the percent change relative to the 1992-94 rate. The percent change between the two time periods is shown for each county in Georgia when rates are available to calculate it. The percent change was calculated before the rates were rounded. Therefore, it is possible for equal rates to have a percent change not equal to zero.

The size of the change from one period to another is dependent on the number of events, the population "at risk", and the magnitude of the difference. High School Dropouts use percent change between 1996 and 1997. Indicators for Abused and Neglected Children and ITBS Scores do not have a percent change because only data for 1997 is displayed.

POPULATIONS

Census population estimates for whites, blacks, Native Americans, Asians, and Hispanics were obtained in 5 year age groups by county. Hispanics are an ethnic group and are also counted along with the race groups. The required age-specific population subsets for the annual estimates were derived from the 1990 Decennial Census using proportions. For example, for less than 18, the proportion of 15-19 year olds who were 15-17 in the 1990 census for each county was multiplied by the number of 15-19

year olds in the yearly estimates. The number of 0-4, 5-9, and 10-14 year olds from the yearly estimates was added to that number. This was done separately for each of the race/ethnic groups. This method was used to produce the child population table. This method was also used to get Total, White, and Black age-group populations used for population denominators in rate calculations.

POVERTY ESTIMATES

Median household income and estimates for number of related children under age 18 and age 5-17 in families below the poverty level were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates program. They refer to income year 1993. Estimates are based on modeled relationships involving current income and poverty levels and income tax and program data available for counties and states. They are not direct counts or direct estimates from sample surveys.

VITAL RECORDS DATA

All birth and death certificate data were provided by the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health, Center for Health Information, Vital Records Unit.

LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BIRTHS

Data were compiled from birth certificate records. The total number of infants born weighing less than 5.5 pounds (2,500 grams) who were born to Georgia mothers is included (including residents of military bases). Data on very low birth weight births used in the Georgia Summary refer to infants born weighing less than 3 pounds 5 ounces (1,500 grams). The total number of live births was used as the denominator. The rate was calculated as 100 times the number of low birth weight infants divided by the total number of births.

INFANT MORTALITY

Data were compiled from the birth and death certificate records. The total number of deaths of infants less than one year of age who were residing in Georgia (regardless of where the death occurred) was used as the numerator for the rate calculations. The total number of live births was used for the denominator. The rates were calculated as 1,000 times the number of infant deaths divided by the number of live births in each three-year period.

CHILD DEATHS

Data were compiled from death certificate records. The total number of deaths from all causes for children ages one to 14 years was used as the numerator for the rate calculations. The denominator was the child population ages one to 14. Rates were calculated as 100,000 times the number of deaths divided by the population in each three-year period.

TEEN DEATHS BY ACCIDENT, HOMICIDE, AND SUICIDE

Data were compiled from death certificate records. The numerator was the number of deaths by accident, homicide, or suicide among Georgia teen residents ages 15 through 19. These deaths were identified from computer-generated "short codes" (clusters of the International Classification of Diseases [ICD 9] codes), and include all deaths with codes 50 to 62 inclusive. Accidents include motor vehicle accidents and all other accidental deaths (i.e. deaths due to falls, fire, poisoning, etc.). The denominator was teen population ages 15 through 19. Rates were calculated as 100,000 times the number of deaths divided by the population for each three-year period.

BIRTHS TO TEENS

Data were compiled from birth certificate records. The number of births to Georgia teen residents ages 15 to 17 at the time of the birth was used as the numerator. The denominator was the female population ages 15 to 17. Rates were calculated as 1,000 times the number of births to teens divided by the population for each three-year period. The number of repeat births was the number of babies born to mothers ages 15 through 17 who had already given birth to a child who was still living. Rates were calculated as 100 times the number of repeat births to mothers ages 15 through 17 divided by all births to teens ages 15 through 17. Since the "all births" rates and the "repeat births" rate use different denominators, it is important not to compare these rates directly. The "pregnancy" category used in the graph includes births and induced abortions. Abortion data were also obtained from the Vital Records Unit. The mother's age at time of conception was used to define age categories for pregnancies. Rates were calculated as 1,000 times the number of pregnancies to females in the age group divided by the female population in that age group during the three-year period.

JUVENILE ARRESTS

Data on juvenile arrests were compiled by the Uniform Crime Reports Unit, Georgia Crime Information Center, Georgia Bureau of Investigation. The data were obtained from summary reports submitted by local law enforcement agencies. The total number of arrests was the sum of the number of arrests for Part I and Part II offenses. The numerator of each ratio was the total number of arrests among juveniles ages 10 through 17. The denominators were the resident population ages 10 through 17. Since arrest data can represent an incident involving a non-resident, this indicator is expressed as a ratio of arrests to the population (see "Rate or Ratio" above for further explanation). A juvenile can also be arrested more than once. The ratios were the number of arrests per 100 youths ages 10 through 17 for 1992-1994 and 1995-1997.

FAMILIES STARTING AT RISK

Data on first births to mothers with one or more risk factors were compiled from the birth certificate records. The three risk factors considered were age (less than 20 years old), education (not a high school graduate), and marital status (unmarried). The numerators for "at least one" risk factor were the sums of all first births to women who had at least one of the risk factors. The denominators were all first births to Georgia residents. The rates were calculated by multiplying 100 times the sums of first births with at least one risk factor, divided by all first births. The numerators for "all three" risk factors were all first births to mothers who had all three of the risk factors. The rates were calculated as 100 times the number of first births to mothers with all three risk factors, divided by all first births.

ABUSED & NEGLECTED CHILDREN

Data were compiled from confirmed incident reports of child abuse produced by the Division of Family and Children Services, Georgia Department of Human Resources. If there was substantial credible evidence that abuse or neglect occurred, a report was determined to be confirmed. An incident count represented the number of maltreatment events that occurred. One child could have more than one incident. For example, a child who was physically and emotionally abused represented two incidents of abuse. The number refers to 1997 only. The rate was calculated as 1,000 times the total number of incidents for 1997 only divided by the population under age 18.

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS

Data on high school dropouts were obtained from the Georgia Department of Education. Students were reported as dropouts if they left school for one of the following reasons: Marriage, Expelled, Financial Hardship/Job, Incarcerated/Under Jurisdiction of Juvenile or Criminal Justice Authority, Low Grades/School Failure, Military, Adult Education/ Postsecondary, Pregnant/Parent, Removed for Lack of Attendance, Serious Illness/Accident and Unknown. The numerators for the 1997 rates were the numbers of dropouts from grades 9 through 12 reported by the school system from October 1996 to October 1997. The denominators were enrollments in October 1996. The rate was calculated as the 100 times the number of dropouts divided by the number enrolled during the year. The 1996 rate used dropouts reported from October 1995 to October 1996 and the enrollment in October 1995. Percent change was calculated between 1996 and 1997. All city school systems were added to the numerator and denominator of the county in which they are located.

READING AND MATH SCORES ON THE IOWA TEST OF BASIC SKILLS

Data for the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) were obtained from the Georgia Department of Education. Every student in grades three, five, and eight in Georgia's public education system is required to participate in this testing program. The data were percentile scores of students on the Reading Comprehension and Mathematics sub-tests. Percentile scores refer to the percent of students in a reference group with scores below the average student in the county or state. The reference group was a national sample of students for the 1991-92 school year. No number or rate was displayed because this indicator refers to a score, not a number. No percent change was displayed because only one year of data was provided. A weighted average, using the number of students taking the test as the weight, was utilized to combine city and county school systems for those counties which have a city school system.

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